**■ Sports / A25**

NBA Playoffs: Sonics, Mavs, Pistons tie series

**■ Across A17**

Boracay in critical condition, says Durano

**■ World / A10**

Russian tycoon found guilty of theft, fraud, tax evasion

**■ Business B1**

4-month BOP surplus rises by 165% to $887M

**■ News / A2**

DOF files graft charges vs 2 sisters at Customs

## Cigarette firm's top exec tells smokers: Kick habit

MANAMATAY KANG MAY BAD BREATH!

By Dennis Jay C. Santos
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*

DAVAO CITY—Still dying for a smoke? Take it from a top official of a major cigarette maker.

CIGARETTE/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
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# Solons on 'jueteng' take, says ex-solon

## Payoffs: P50,000 to P100,000 a month

By Luige A. del Puerto

**THE PAYROLLS of "jueteng" lords include not only police officials, governors and mayors but lawmakers as well, according to a former Metro Manila lawmaker who told the INQUIRER that he, too, had been on the take.**

The politician, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that he and some of his colleagues in Luzon and Metro Manila in the 1990s had received payoffs ranging from P50,000 to P100,000 a month from financiers of the illegal numbers game.

"I know because I received it," the politician, who served more than one term in the House of Representatives, told the INQUIRER.

The former congressman, who had served as an unnamed but highly reliable source on the INQUIRER exposé on the graft-ridden pork barrel system, said he did not want to come out in the open again for fear of prosecution.

"If I come out, the focus would be on me. But I also want to let the people know that this is happening, and to confirm Archbishop (Oscar) Cruz's allegations," he said.

SOLONS/ A8

**PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo meets with relatives of slain journalist Marilyn Esperat before the launching of the P5-million "press freedom" fund at Malacañang.**

EDWIN BACASMAS

## Get Esperat slay mastermind, GMA orders

By Armand Nocum and Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday gave the justice department the green light to go after the mastermind in the killing of journalist Marlene Esperat, whoever that person may be.

Ms Arroyo gave the order as she acknowledged for the first time that the killing of members of the media had reached a "frightening" level.

Launching a P5-million press freedom fund, Ms Arroyo—in her strongest statement yet on the spate of media murders—vowed to go after the "cold-blooded" killers of journalists and said there was need "to turn the culture of violence around."

Speaking to reporters, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said Ms Arroyo told him: "Go after whoever is involved, but there should be no witch-hunt."

Gonzalez said he asked for Ms Arroyo's permission to proceed against those who might have ordered Esperat's killing regardless of their position in government after the lawyer of the Esperat family told the President that the mastermind could be somebody "beyond" the level of two Department of Agriculture officials in Central Mindanao who had been accused of involvement.

Gonzalez did not identify the lawyer.

He said the lawyer made the allegation during a meeting with

GET ESPERAT/ A8

**NILO "Boyet" Morete: Alleged triggerman in the killing of Aurora publisher Philip Agustin.**

## Cops hunt 'assassin' in Tarlac

By Margaux C. Ortiz
*Metro*

A SUSPECT in the murder of community newspaper publisher Philip Agustin said yesterday he was told Agustin must be killed because of the negative stories he had been writing about Mayor Yaime Ylarde of Dingalan, Aurora.

Laborer Reynaldo Morete said he was instigated into joining the plot to kill Agustin by a cousin of his—Nilo "Boyet" Morete—whom police had tagged as the alleged gunman

COPS/ A4

## Bomb sent to radioman kills boy

By PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—A bomb sent in a gift box to a radio announcer in Compostela Valley exploded, killing an 11-year-old boy and hurting three other persons, police said Monday.

The supposed target, Lucio Ceniza, who is also manager of Manila Broadcasting Co.'s Radyo Natin in Barangay Mt. Diwata in Monkayo town, said the attempt on his life was an offshoot of his campaign against illegal drugs.

"I cannot be cowed by these lawless elements," said Ceniza,

BOMB/ A20

## Pimentel, Lapid row stalls probe

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE ROW between Senate Minority Leader Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. and Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid led to the deferment of the Senate inquiry into "jueteng" scheduled for Wednesday.

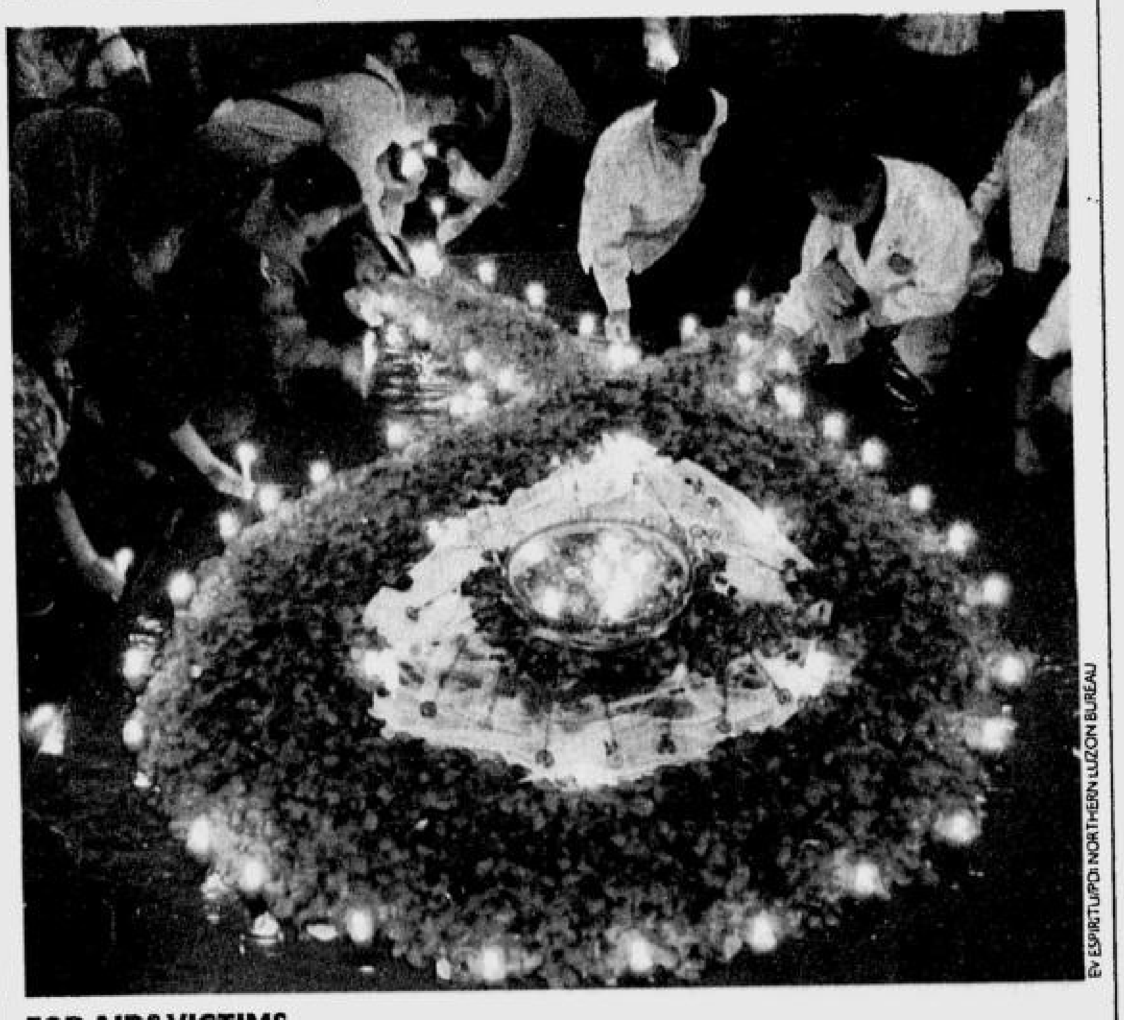
In a scathing privilege speech, Pimentel demanded that the inquiry be delayed until Lapid, chair of the committee that will look into the proliferation of the illegal numbers racket in the country, was booted out of the investigation.

The minority leader delivered the speech after Lapid, an actor and former governor of Pampanga, ignored Pimentel's appeal for him to inhibit himself from the inquiry.

Pimentel and Lapid had a heated exchange on the floor after the opposition leader formally questioned the neophyte administration senator's fitness in presiding over the inquiry into jueteng operations and reports that three relatives of a top government official were raking in millions of pesos from jueteng lords.

*"Ako ba ang pinariringgan mo o kayo lang ang malinis ang kamay?*

PIMENTEL/ A8



EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

**FOR AIDS VICTIMS**

**Baguio City residents, led by Dr. Charles Cheng and employees of dance clubs and bars, light candles for AIDS fatalities in observance of the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial. *(Story on Page A2.)***

### NEW PACIFIC WAR

## Shattered dreams of the middle class

By Alcuin Papa

*(Last of three parts)*

**SPECIAL REPORT**
*Project Editor:*
**Leah Makabenta**

THE APTLY named "Broken Dreams" website holds the shattered hopes of 34,000 overseas workers, office clerks, government employees, businessmen, lawyers, journalists, teachers, accountants and others who had bought into the dreams being peddled by Pacific Plans Inc.

While their individual life stories may differ, their degree of suffering is similar because they all worked hard most of their lives toward one goal—to give their children the best education they could afford.

PPI plan holders said "broken dreams" accurately described the situation they were now facing after the pre-need company told them it did not have the money to pay for their children's tuition this school year.

Plan holders said they felt cheated because not only did the PPI violate its trusteeship agreement with them, it also acted with deceit in allegedly stripping the company of its assets to keep them out of the hands of PPI creditors, the plan holders.

Winnie Bonifacio, a former financial analyst, has been battling breast cancer since 2000. Now, she is fighting an entirely new battle.

"We bought three plans for our three children who are in college. It will be a real strain on our finances if we end up getting nothing from Pacific Plans," she said, noting that she also had to worry about how to pay for her cancer treatment.

Bonifacio had to step down as president of Parents Enabling Parents Coalition (PEP Coalition), a lobby group formed by aggrieved PPI plan holders, because of her condition.

SHATTERED/ A7

**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CYRIL L BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/05/17/05

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Partly Cloudy | Iloilo/Bacolod | Cloudy with Rains |
| Baguio | Partly Cloudy | Roxas | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tuguegarao | Partly Cloudy | Cebu | Cloudy with Rains |
| Laoag | Partly Cloudy | Tacloban | Cloudy with Rains |
| Clark Zone | Partly Cloudy | Gen. Santos | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tagaytay | Partly Cloudy | Zamboanga | Cloudy with Rains |
| Legazpi | Partly Cloudy | Cagayan de Oro | Cloudy with Rains |
| Calapan | Partly Cloudy | Davao | Cloudy with Rains |

# Second FrontPage

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# It's official: 2 sisters charged

By Nelson F. Flores

**THE DEPARTMENT of Finance yesterday filed graft charges before the Ombudsman against two sisters working in the Bureau of Customs who allegedly amassed illegal wealth.**

Charged in separate complaints with violation of Republic Act No. 1379 (the Ill-Gotten Wealth Law) were Ana Marie Concepcion-Maglasang, customs operation officer 5 at the Port of Manila at the South Harbor, and Matilda Concepcion-Millare, special deputy collector at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

The DOF through the Revenue Integrity Protection Service (RIPS) asked the Ombudsman to confiscate the assets of Maglasang and Millare, particularly a Lexus and an Expedition SUV, the most expensive mobile items that could be disposed of easily.

The RIPS is the DOF unit tasked with conducting lifestyle checks on and filing graft charges against officials and employees of agencies under the department.

The DOF said Millare's Lexus and Maglasang's Expedition "should be susceptible to forfeiture and reversion proceedings" under RA 1379 and confiscated by the government when a civil case is eventually filed in court.

The DOF found that Maglasang owned a house and lot at Filinvest East Subdivision in Cainta, Rizal; a house and lot at Sierra Monte Mansions, also at Filinvest East; adjoining houses and lots at Town and Country Executive Village, also in Cainta, and a two-story mansion at Royal Tagaytay Estates in Alfonso, Cavite.

The Tagaytay mansion was supposedly transferred to a Ramon King Jr. in September 2003 for P2.5 million, although records at the local assessors' office showed Maglasang still owned the property.

Aside from the Ford Expedition, Maglasang also owned a Mitsubishi Pajero and a Mazda MPV.

All these on an annual salary of P218,928, or a little over P18,000 a month, according to RIPS. When she first joined the BOC in 1989 as a customs examiner, her annual salary was P35,508.

Millare, on the other hand, owned several pieces of real estate and luxury vehicles, according to RIPS.

These included a house and lot in Cubao, Quezon City; agricultural lots in Zambales and Sorsogon, and a posh house at Valle Verde subdivision in Pasig City.

She also owned, aside from the Lexus, a Mitsubishi Pajero, Toyota RAV-4, Honda Civic, Nissan Exalta, Honda CRV, a speedboat and several trucks.

Millare earns an annual salary of P249,876, or almost P21,000 a month. She made P6,240 a year when she joined the BOC as a senior storekeeper in 1989, RIPS said.

RIPS said some of the assets were not declared in Millare's statements of assets, liabilities and net worth, including the 2002 Pajero and the 2004 RAV-4, which were worth more than P1 million each.

The other assets were declared in her SALNs, but her explanation of how she had acquired them was doubtful, the RIPS said.

Millare consistently declared the same liabilities in her SALNs from 1994 to 2003—a loan of P500,000 from Bank of the Philippine Islands, a loan of P370,000 from GSIS Family Bank, a loan of P1.3 million from I-Bank and two loans amounting to 4.15 million from Citystate Savings Bank, the RIPS said.

It noted that the liabilities Millare declared did not diminish over the years.

RIPS alleged that Millare had been declaring the same liabilities over and over in her SALNs to justify her assets and thus hide her true net worth.

RIPS also noted Millare's "unusual interest" since January 2004 in pirated DVDs and VCDs smuggled into the country, adding that despite its recommendations to her superiors, no legal action was taken against her.

Finance Undersecretary and RIPS head Emmanuel Bonoan said in an interview his office was preparing for the prosecution of the sisters.

"They are facing a very long term in jail. And I am so certain the DOF has a good case," Bonoan said.

Meanwhile, one of the sisters, Maglasang, made herself scarce at her office at the Port Area yesterday.

Her co-workers said she did not report for work and no one could say when or if she was returning.

On the other hand, Millare showed up at her office at the Naia, but she had just stepped out when the INQUIRER called.

The BOC did not issue a statement about the sisters or the slapping of charges against them.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to talk to Customs Commissioner Alberto Lina who was reportedly in a meeting with other customs officials for most of the day yesterday. *With Michelle V. Remo and Leila B. Salaverria*

ANA Marie Concepcion-Maglasang

MATILDA Concepcion-Millare

# 11 colleges recall tuition hike bids; 205 schools seek fee raises

By Alcuin Papa

ONE COULD just imagine students and their parents making a beeline for these schools.

Probably realizing that they were pricing themselves beyond the reach of their students, 11 private colleges and universities have withdrawn their requests for tuition increases this school year, the Commission on Higher Education said yesterday.

The CHEd identified the schools, mostly in the National Capital Region, as Adamson University, Asian College of Science and Technology with branches in Alabang, Caloocan City, Cubao and Novaliches City; Capital Medical Center Colleges, La Consolacion College in Caloocan, Maryhill School of Theology, St. Joseph College in Quezon City, Manila Teacher's College and Unciano College.

Acting CHEd chair Dr. Carlito Puno said the schools had applied to raise their tuition by as much as 15 percent.

"We are glad they withdrew their requests. We hope the others would follow after they realize they had overpriced their tuition," Puno said.

He said he was glad the schools decided not to increase their tuition ahead of the release by the CHEd of its new order virtually regulating the skyrocketing tuition.

Recently, the CHEd said it would look into regulating runaway tuition and miscellaneous fees. Students and their parents had complained that schools were raising their fees without consulting the public.

The CHEd said schools should not raise their tuition beyond the current inflation rate in the country of 8.4 percent without the commission's approval. It said it would only grant tuition hikes beyond the inflation rate if the schools could justify the increase.

For school year 2005-06, the CHEd said 205 of the 1,342 institutions of higher learning in the country had filed requests to raise their tuition by at least P42 per unit, which translates to a tuition hike of around 15 percent on the average. This is almost eight percentage points higher than the 8.4 percent inflation rate.

The new CHEd rule would set a cap on tuition and miscellaneous fee increases and stipulates that the schools must first consult with the CHEd on their petitions.

Dr. Ethel Valenzuela, CHEd director for student services, said the number of higher education institutions asking for tuition increases this year was smaller compared to last year. She said this year, 15 percent of schools asked for an increase compared to 27 percent last year.

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# Media moguls pitch in to help GMA repair image

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TAKING their cue from the country's leading spin doctors, the Philippines' top media moguls will pitch in to help in President Macapagal-Arroyo's major image makeover.

Their main objective: To let the public know that the President had nothing to do with the high oil prices.

The media moguls, led by Antonio "Tony Boy" Cojuangco of ABC Broadcasting Corp., Eugenio Lopez III of ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. and Felipe Gozon of GMA Broadcasting Corp., together with Ayala Corp. chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, had a luncheon meeting with President Arroyo yesterday in Malacañang where they pledged to support an aggressive information drive to be conducted by the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (PANA).

Ms Arroyo had previously accepted the offer of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines to help her build up her image by ensuring that the people were made aware of her successful projects and initiatives.

Gil Chua of PANA said the ad campaign would kick off in the major television networks and radio stations today to be followed by a series of paid ads in the daily newspapers.

In a statement issued by Malacañang, Chua said the "general objective of the campaign is to take the blame away from the government as the cause of the high cost of energy and educate the [people] that the government had no direct control on the movement of oil prices dictated by the world market."

Chua urged advertisers to be "more advocative" and help the government deliver the message of the ad campaign dubbed "Galing ng Pilipino: Save Energy, Save Our Future."

For her part, the President thanked the media moguls, who were described in the Malacañang statement as "executives of top advertising firms," for "their full support in the ongoing government campaign to educate the general public on the real reasons behind the continued oil price increases in the world market.

"I would like to thank all of you for being here today and for supporting me in this effort so that all of us can benefit from a better economy, and the rest of the Filipino people as well," the President said after the meeting presided over by Trade Secretary Juan Santos.

Aside from Cojuangco, Lopez, Gozon and Zobel, also at the meeting were Luisito "Cito" Alejandro, Mike Enriquez, Emmanuel Ang, Johnip Cua, Jocelyn Campos-Hess, Carlos Ejercito, Mabini Antonio, Rogelio Quevedo, Gerardo Ablaza, Danilo Macatangay, Roger Dallas, Pet Bautista, Manuel Quiogue, Nic Gabonada, Tony Katigbak, Eric Canoy, Rico Roa, Gerardo Limlingan, Ador Perez, Emily Abrera, Minyong Ordoñez, Bagnos "Jojo" Magno, Rupert Alvarez, Ruperto Nicdao, Paciencia Pineda, Bobby Barriero and Ramon Jose Toribio.

# Many Filipinos think AIDS is like malaria, health survey shows

By Christian V. Esguerra

BELIEVE it or not, many Filipinos think that the AIDS virus is transmitted through mosquito bites and food sharing.

According to the National Demographic and Health Survey, only 36 percent of women and 30 percent of men shot down the idea that the deadly virus could be passed on through either modes.

That means majority of Filipinos are still at a loss on how the deadly disease is acquired. The Department of Health has described the AIDS cases in the country as "hidden and growing" in terms of number.

"Misconceptions about HIV/AIDS are normally borne out by wrong information people get from different sources," said Tomas Osias, executive director of the Commission on Population.

Citing a University of the Philippines study, Dr. Roderick Poblete of the Philippine National AIDS Council had earlier revealed that at least 23 percent of Filipinos aged between 15 and 24 believe they are "invincible" against the virus.

About 60 percent more believe there's now a cure for HIV/AIDS so they have somehow become complacent in their sexual activities, Poblete told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Poblete warned of a "tsunami" of AIDS cases, unless Filipinos once and for all tackle the serious problem with "risk behaviors" such as unprotected sex and needle sharing among drug users.

"What we're seeing for AIDs is an ebb tide before the tsunami where the tide recedes and people are complacent, just looking at the coastline, playing, unmindful of the danger," he said.

As of last March, the DOH has recorded a total 2,250 HIV positive cases. Of the number, 745 were overseas Filipino workers, mostly seafarers (266).

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# Sunday hottest day for Metro; storm threatens Visayas

**By Blanche S. Rivera, *in Manila*, and Anselmo Roque, *PDI Central Luzon Desk***

METRO Manila suffered through its hottest day Sunday with the mercury soaring to 37.9 degrees Celsius at 2:45 p.m., breaking a four-year-old record, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said yesterday.

The Eastern Visayas, however, was warned to brace for a storm this week as tropical depression Crising headed for Leyte at 55 kph.

Pagasa weather forecasting chief Herman Ngohayon said Crising was moving too slowly to raise a storm signal.

"We only raised an alert because it's too slow, it's almost stationary and covers only a small area," Ngohayon said in a phone interview.

As of 10 a.m. yesterday, Crising was spotted north of Bicol and was 350-km east of southern Leyte. Crising could still weaken, Ngohayon said.

While the weather bureau predicted rain showers and thunderstorms in the Visayas and Mindanao, Luzon, particularly Cabanatuan City, continued to sizzle under temperatures that pushed beyond 39 degrees Celsius.

Pagasa said temperature readings showed the mercury rose to between 38 and 39.2 degrees Celsius in Cabanatuan beginning in April up to last week, making the city possibly the hottest in the country and among select Southeast Asian cities.

Dominador Campo, chief meteorological officer of Pagasa in Cabanatuan, said the temperature in the city shot up to 39.2 degrees Celsius on May 8. This, he said, was the highest temperature recorded this year in any city in the Philippines.

Campo said the city sweltered under 38-degree weather on April 12, April 27 and May 12.

As Cabanatuan suffered at 38 degrees on April 12 and 27, the cities of Tuguegarao and General Santos, and Saigon in Vietnam, experienced temperatures two degrees lower. These were the temperatures that came closest to Cabanatuan's on those days.

On May 12, the next hottest temperature reading—35 degrees Celsius—was recorded in Bangkok, Thailand; Hanoi, Vietnam, and Tuguegarao and Catbalogan in the Philippines.

On May 15, temperatures in Cabanatuan soared to 38.8 degrees.

Campo said Pagasa records indicated that Cabanatuan came close to beating the hottest-ever recorded temperature in the country.

This was on May 11, 2002, Campo said, when the city recorded a temperature of 40.4 degrees Celsius, a few notches below the 42.2 degrees experienced in Tuguegarao, Cagayan, on Aug. 29, 1912, and on May 11, 1969.

Asked why the city was experiencing such high temperatures, Campo could not give a ready answer.

But some residents said the burning of rice hay and stubble in farmlands around the city and other parts of Nueva Ecija may have contributed to the searing temperatures. They also blamed the thinning forest cover in the province.

The burning of rice hay and stubble in rice fields is a common practice of farmers to rid their farms of wastes that clog their plows when they cultivate the land.

The residents also noted that even in areas in Nueva Ecija where trees abound, temperatures were still high and caused discomfort to residents.

# DNA tests finally confirm remains of Punongbayan

PUNONGBAYAN

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has finally identified the remains of Philippine National Red Cross governor Raymundo Punongbayan and his companions through DNA analysis weeks after the helicopter they were riding in crashed in Nueva Ecija.

NBI Forensic and Chemistry Division acting chief Idabel Pagulayan confirmed that the remains belonged to Punongbayan, geology division chief Dr. Norman Tungol, associate scientist Dr. Jessie Daligdig, science researchers Dindo Javier and Orlando Abengoza, co-pilot 1st Lt. Jason Salazar, and S/Sgt. Edgar Ramolete.

Pagulayan said the procedure entailed taking a swab of the inner cheeks of the victims' relatives and subjecting the samples to DNA analysis.

These were then matched with the DNA test results taken from the 11 bags that contained unidentified parts of the crash victims.

"Our funeral parlor in Rizal are now preparing the body parts so they could immediately be turned over to the families of the victims," Pagulayan said. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

# Suspect in mayor's slay turns out to be a 'she'

ONE of the male suspects earlier identified by witnesses in last week's killing of Sta. Rosa, Laguna Mayor Leon Arcillas turned out to be a woman, according to the National Bureau of Investigation.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said the policeman injured in the ensuing firefight between the mayor's bodyguards and the gunmen revealed that "the suspect was a lesbian."

"This witness identified the suspect in one of the photos shown to them and said she wore the same clothes as one of the gunmen," Wycoco said, pointing at the suspect who was wearing a red shirt in the photo.

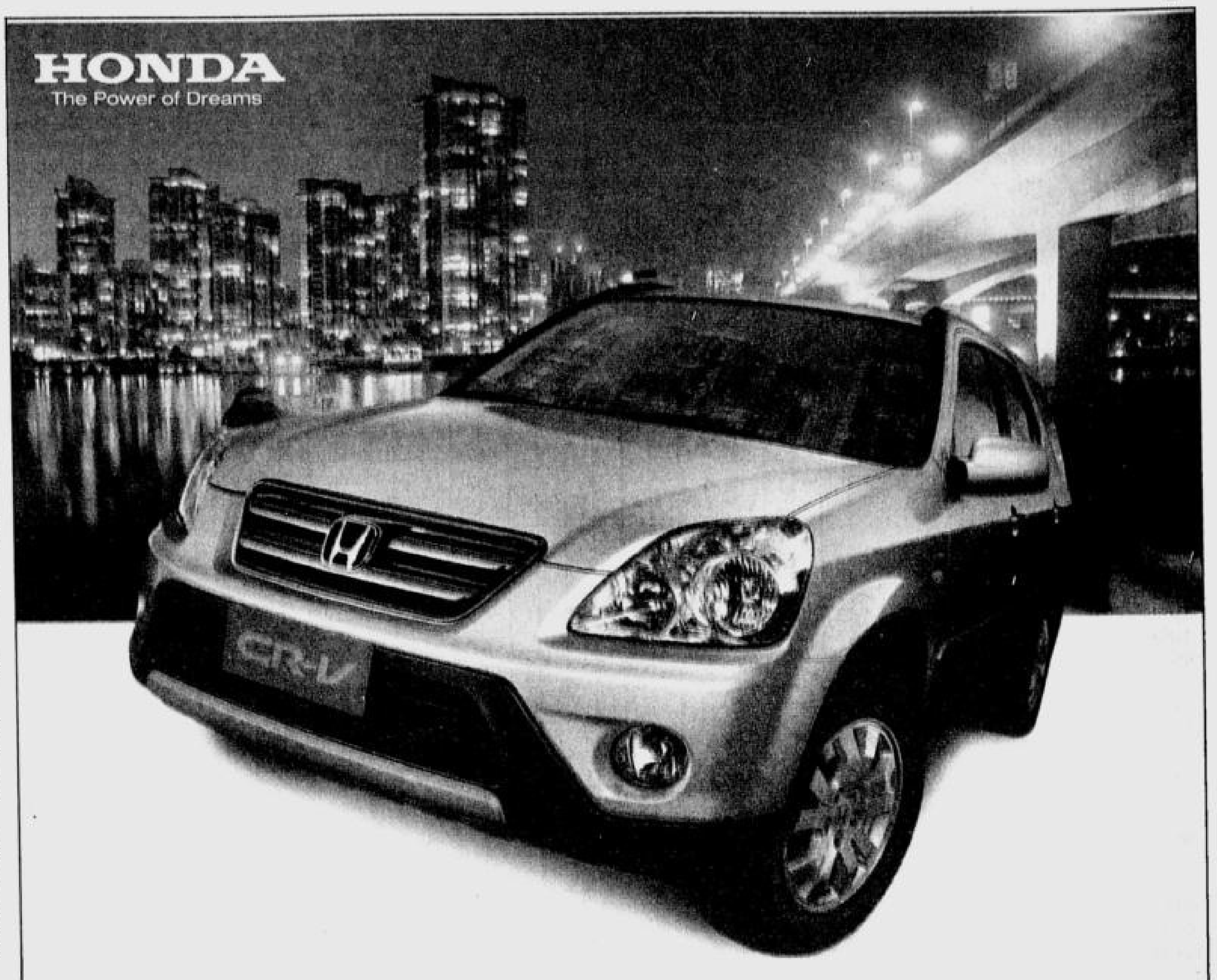
The NBI director added, "This new information would greatly help in finding the suspects in the killing."

Wycoco said the injured policeman identified the woman as the one who wrestled with him when he tried to pull out a gun in an attempt to protect the mayor.

The NBI chief added that another man in the group shot Arcillas.

Police had earlier culled the photo from several photographs taken at the civil wedding that Arcillas officiated moments before he was gunned down at the hallway of the second floor of the new city hall.

Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Jesus Versoza said the couples who were wed during the ceremonies forwarded the photographs to Task Force Arcillas. *Margaux C. Ortiz*



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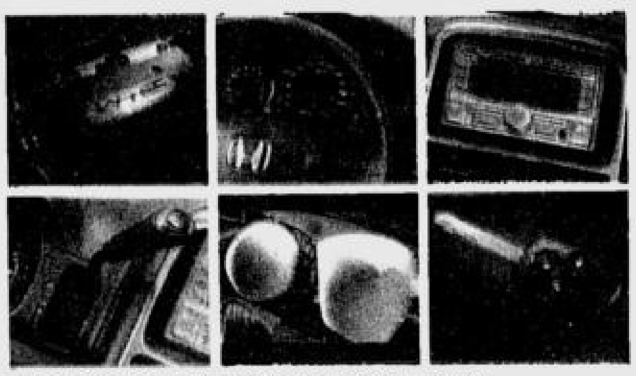

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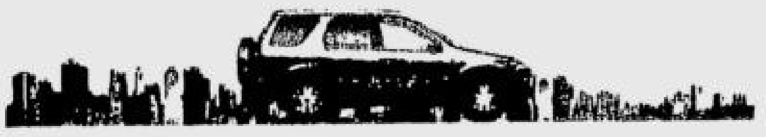

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# Cops hunt 'assassin' in Tarlac

From page A1

**REYNALDO Morete, a suspect in the killing of Aurora publisher Philip Agustin, is presented to media by NBI officials.** ERIK ARAZAS

and who was now being hunted in the mountains in Tarlac.

Speaking at a news conference with National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco, Reynaldo was asked by reporters if the mayor of Dingalan had ordered the killing of Agustin.

"I cannot answer that. It is Boyet who knows," Reynaldo said.

He said the killing of the publisher, who was gunned down on May 10 inside his daughter's home in Dingalan, was planned in "just one day" in a rented house.

Reynaldo, 38, said that Boyet, his first cousin, approached him before the assassination, asking about Agustin.

"He asked if I knew Agustin," Morete said, speaking in Filipino, He said Boyet was the one in direct contact with the mayor.

*"Nung sinabi kong kilala ko siya, sabi ni Boyet na kailangan nang tirahin si Agustin dahil mainit si mayor dun at lagi siyang tinitira* (When I said that I knew him, Boyet said, 'Agustin has to be hit because the mayor is mad at him for always attacking him')," Reynaldo said.

Reynaldo nodded when he was asked if it was true, as earlier stated by the NBI, that he was a lookout when Agustin was gunned down.

## 'Not me'

Ylarde has repeatedly denied involvement in the murder of Agustin, the latest victim in the growing list of slain Filipino media people. The killings have earned for the Philippines international condemnation as the most murderous country in the world for journalists.

Reynaldo said he, his cousin and fellow suspect Manuel Alday were "on the payroll" of the mayor as construction laborers at the municipal hall.

"All of that is subject to verification," Wycoco said of Reynaldo's statements to media.

Asked if what Reynaldo had told reporters about why Agustin was killed was also contained in any statements he had given investigators, Wycoco said it was only at the news conference that the suspect had said those things.

"But it's good he said that because that is additional information to investigators," Wycoco said.

## Gunman identified

"We will continue investigating the motive behind the case," Wycoco said. He said Boyet was last seen in Mayantoc, Tarlac, on May 15.

Wycoco said Reynaldo had "positively identified Boyet as the one who actually shot Agustin."

Agustin, 54, a widower, was killed in Barangay Paltic just as he was preparing to eat dinner after 11 p.m.

"I did not know they will go through with the plan of killing Agustin," Morete said, adding that he had not seen Boyet or Alday since the night of the incident.

Wycoco said Boyet was also allegedly behind the murder of a soldier and a policeman in Aurora a few years ago.

## Who is Boyet?

Agustin's daughter Dimple, 27, said she believed that her father's articles about Ylarde had led to his death.

"Ever since my father came up with his articles, suspicious people had been spying on our house," Dimple tearfully said.

In his newsweekly's May 2-8 special edition, Agustin had exposed alleged anomalies committed under Ylarde such as missing logs, the slow resettlement of displaced families, the spending of P1.5 million for the rental of heavy equipment used in clearing the area around a privately owned cockpit, and the realignment of funds meant for flash flood and landslide victims.

Agustin was carrying 500 copies of the special edition when he returned home to his hometown on May 10. He was shot dead later that night.

## Mountain chase

Thwarted by heavy rains on Sunday, more than 60 policemen took advantage of a break in the weather and resumed their pursuit of Boyet Morete and Alday in a mountainous area said to be a communist rebel lair.

The police pursuers, who took off at 2 a.m., were focusing their search in the mountain villages of Mayantoc, Tarlac, near the Zambales border, where the pair were last seen, said Senior Supt. Perfecto Palad, head of Task Force Agustin.

The troops on Sunday night called off their search after strong rains poured in the area.

The task force, comprising police and NBI operatives, scored an apparent breakthrough in the case on Saturday after they arrested Reynaldo.

## 3 witnesses

Three witnesses had claimed seeing Reynaldo, Boyet and Alday at a videoke bar near the house where Agustin was shot.

Palad said the trail led to Mayantoc after NBI agents received reports that the father of one of the Moretes and Alday's brother-in-law were to deliver money to the suspects.

The father and the brother-in-law, Palad said, were held for questioning and were taken to Mayantoc to lead authorities to the suspects' supposed hideout.

Alday had supposedly stayed in the house of a certain Myra, his alleged former live-in partner, police said.

Palad said Boyet and Alday fled deeper into the mountain as troops approached, and police had blocked all possible exits. *With a report from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

# Cigarette . . .

From page A1

Chris Nelson, managing director of Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc., is advising smokers to kick the highly toxic habit.

"We've been clear and categorical. It's addictive and I believe that smoking can cause cancer," Nelson told reporters during a visit here last week.

"Stop. Philip Morris is very open. You better stop," Nelson advised smokers, particularly those "who think they have suffered illness as a result of using our products."

Philip Morris makes Marlboro, Philip Morris 100s, L&M as well as local brands Bowling Gold, Miller, Stork and Bowling Green.

Nelson, an occasional smoker himself, said Philip Morris was not disputing scientific findings that the consumption of tobacco—whether in cigar or cigarette form—caused cancer and death.

Philip Morris is facing various lawsuits in the United States in connection with its alleged failure to inform consumers about the dangers of smoking.

Nelson, however, said Philip Morris was not remiss in telling consumers about the ill effects of smoking on their health.

In fact, he said, Philip Morris has been waging a no-smoking campaign among the youth.

His company, he said, has also started pulling out its television and radio ads even if Republic Act No. 9211, otherwise known as the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003, had yet to fully take effect.

Nelson voiced support for RA 9211, saying it would make tobacco companies responsible and ensure that only adults had access to tobacco products.

Even if cigarettes were made available only to adults, Nelson said tobacco companies could still turn a profit.

According to the Philip Morris official, 45 percent of the adult population in the Philippines are smokers.

Last year alone, Filipino smokers burned at least 90 billion sticks of cigarettes and the figure could still grow by 2 billion sticks over the next few years, he said.

A chain smoker, he pointed out, consumes two to three packs a day.

"The market is growing every year. It's such a vibrant industry here," Nelson said.

## Correction

IN MONDAY'S issue, a story on Page A7—"Youngest bishop installed"—misstated the first name of the president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines. The correct name of the CBCP president is Davao Archbishop Fernando—not Ramon—Capalla.

* * *

*Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses: glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.*

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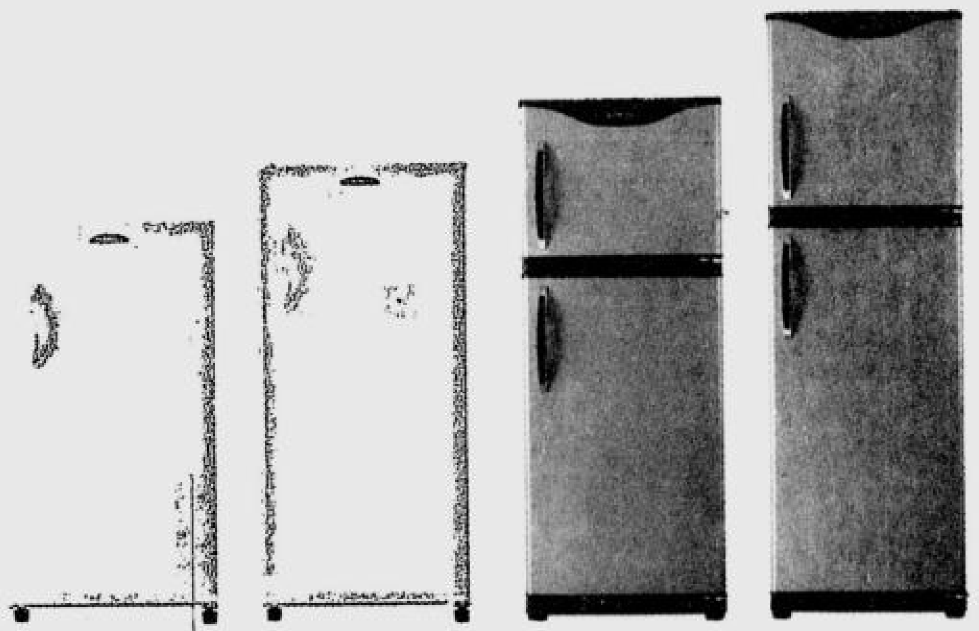

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CONCEPCION INDUSTRIES

# Cop asks TV firms, film makers to promote 'culture of peace'

**By Luige A. del Puerto**

"THERE is an alternative (to the culture of violence), and that is the culture of peace... The TV and film industry can do their part by not glorifying violence."

No, that was not anti-gun advocate Nandy Pacheco talking but a top official of the Philippine National Police.

Deputy Director General Ricardo de Leon, deputy chief for administration, yesterday called on TV networks and film makers to "stop glorifying violence" and institute a form of self-regulation in their ranks.

"One way of addressing this culture of violence is to have regulation... I think it's also (the) responsibility of our friends—in TV stations and in the movies—not (to) glamorize violence," De Leon said.

A prime example of that would be to stop extolling criminals by not turning their lives into movies that young people could emulate, he said.

"There are many ways we can resolve our problem. It's not as if because you are poor or because some wrong was done to you, you already (have the license) to kill," De Leon said.

Pacheco has been trumpeting the anti-gun line since the 1980s.

In an interview last year, Pacheco lamented the gun industry had found a perfect ally in the film industry.

"We have to change our macho culture, and movies have to stop glorifying the use of guns," Pacheco said. "Why do all conflicts have to be resolved using guns, anyway?"

For their part, De Leon said the police have started cracking down on loose and unlicensed firearms. Stricter control over the importation and sale of guns, particularly high-powered ones, has also been put in place, he said.

"We are appealing to the media to help us. All of us should accept this responsibility and initiate action so this can be stopped," De Leon said.

Many things can be resolved through communication and people should learn to be calm, rather than be rash in their actions, he added.

"What people immediately think is to kill... that is not right," he said.

# 5 NPA rebels killed in clashes in South

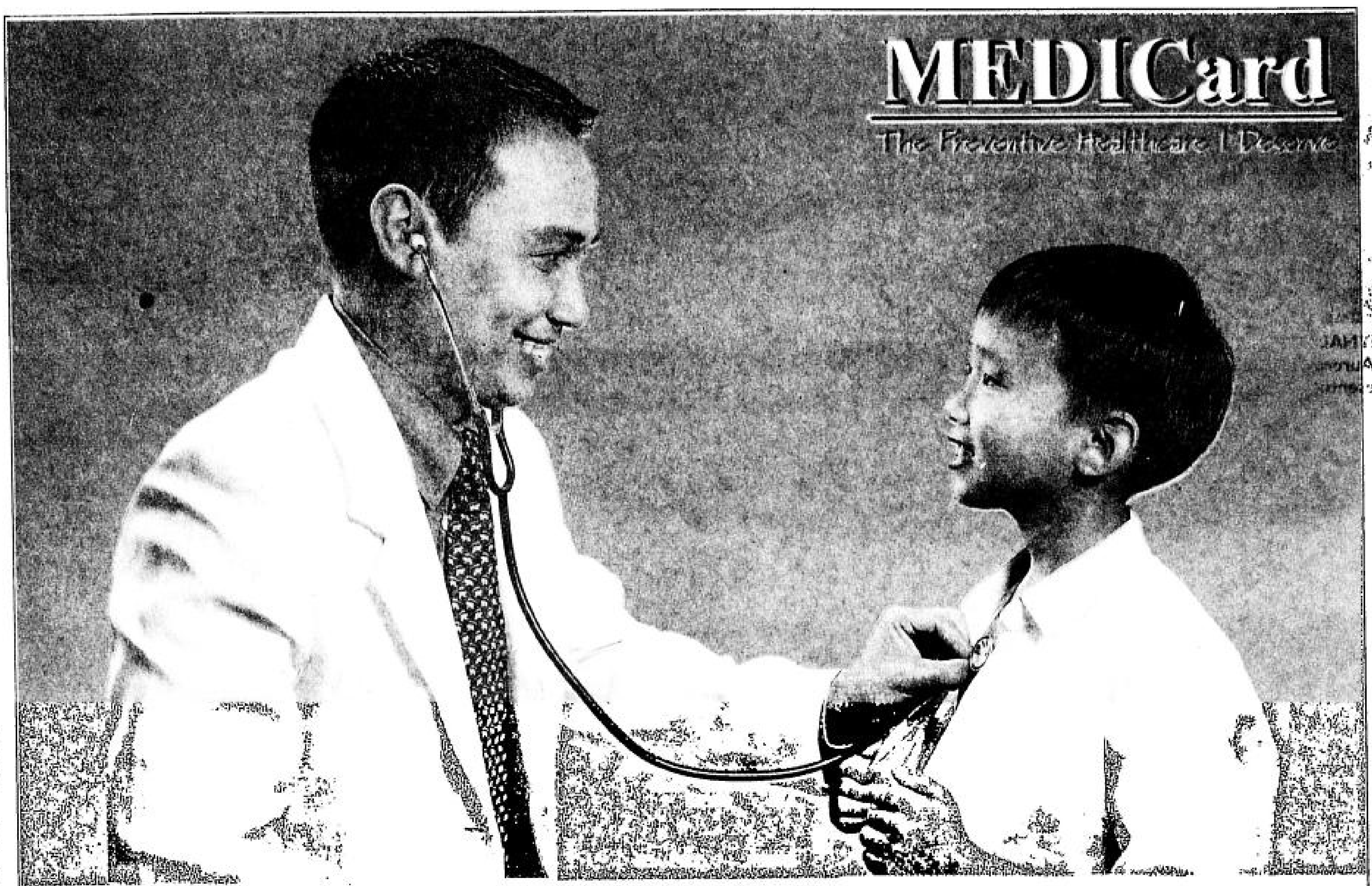
FIVE communist rebels were killed and at least eight government soldiers were wounded in separate clashes in the South over the weekend, military officials said yesterday.

About 60 communist rebels on Sunday pounded a government detachment in Agusan del Sur with rockets and mortar shells. The soldiers returned fire, killing three of the attackers, Army spokesman Maj. Batolome Bacarro said.

A civilian, a soldier and a government militiaman also were wounded in the hour-long firefight.

In Bukidnon on Saturday, soldiers clashed with 70 communist New People's Army rebels in Kitaotao town, killing two guerrillas, including a woman. Six soldiers were reported wounded in the clash.

The military has launched operations to track down the guerrillas, who retreated after the gunfights, officials said. *AP*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# COALITION FOR NATIONAL SALVATION (CNS)

## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERS, SUPPORTERS AND SYMPATHIZERS OF THE COALITION FOR NATIONAL SALVATION (CNS)

Hundreds texted and thousands more through their organizations inquired what will happen next, after the participants to the Congress of the Coalition for National Salvation last Saturday, April 30, 2005 at the Club Filipino left before finishing its task. Your unquestioning support and enthusiasm have been an unending source of inspiration to all of us thus we wish to apprise you of matters close to your and our hearts.

The Congress stopped when it should have continued. Let us not waste time why plans did not happen the way they should have. We know that the present evil dispensation has moles everywhere so we just have to be wiser and more alert next time. Anything worthwhile does not come in easy, and difficulties almost always purify our sincere undertakings. We have identified the obstructionists to the people's clamor or those whose interests are for personal aggrandizement or grandstanding. We shall not give them any further participation. Meanwhile we must keep on with the tasks we have set before us as stated in our invitation to the Congress, "to declare our resolve to usher in a new beginning…And to break the chains…that have bound our flesh and spirit from moving on to the promising future that awaits all of us under a new system with a different set of committed leaders."

There are hundreds of thousands, even millions, who have lost faith in the Gloria Administration and who wish to join us except that it is not clear to them what will happen ultimately. Let us have faith in one another, that we will not impose any further national evil in our society by establishing a military junta dreaded by everyone. Whoever stated that we are for a military is set to destroy our movement because we are nearing victory. We are for the supremacy of the civilian with the necessary support of the military. Our ultimate goal is to have genuine transformation by abolishing all the systems and or structures that have so far impeded our national progress and prosperity and stunted the collective growth and maturity of our people, economically, politically, morally and socially.

Thus we are sharing with you the following VISION and PROGRAM OF GOVERNMENT that were the inspiration and basis of the Congress. We shall also be announcing in due time the members of the provisional council with two slots still open to give opportunity to other big sectors or those who have just recently decided to join us. If you have strong suggestions please communicate with us soonest.

For those who are growing impatient let us not grow weary. Victory belongs to the determined and hardworking. And let us not be afraid. Those who work or fight for the rights of the voiceless poor are God's helpers in His Vineyard. It is the tyrants and oppressors who should be afraid because sooner or later God's wrath will descend on them. MABUHAY AND PILIPINO!!!

MA. LINDA OLAGUER MONTAYRE
Member, Transition Council

COMMODORE ISMAEL APARRI
Member, Transition Council

## VISION OF GOVERNMENT

The Philippines gained independence in 1898 but since that time Filipinos have not been truly independent economically and politically. Governance has always meant being under the shadow of a foreign master or their local counterparts, the economic-political elite. Policies have been made not to respond to the urgent needs of our people, but to accommodate the interests of those who dominate us economically and politically. As a result we are a destitute people, a people in despair today.

It is time that we Filipinos set up a government that will truly serve the aspirations and hopes of our countrymen. But it will be a government that serves first and foremost the interest of every Filipino, both poor and rich, regardless of religion, region or ethnic origin. And it is a government we must love and serve before that of any other country or any global institution or sector. It is the only way stability and prosperity will descend on our beloved land and the best guarantee that we can be of service to the international community.

Many of us look down on our country including ourselves. Thus in our negotiations and agreements we settle for the crumbs or less than what is due us, either because our leaders sold us out or because we mistakenly start from a material standpoint. Indeed we are not an economically or militarily superior nation, yet. But we must start from a different premise, that we are all sons of One God. Whether developed or underdeveloped nation we are all equal in the eyes of God for we are all made unto His Image, and it is time we affirm this to the global community. This also means it is our task to cut ourselves off from the chains that bind us to hunger and poverty, regardless of who have shackled us. Or we must set aside whatever it is that obstructs our economic and political independence. Other nations have done it. The powerful nations will respect us if we deal with them on this basis. But it also means we have to cleanse ourselves of corruption and immorality, or opportunism and insincerity in governance so that we will have the moral ascendancy to demand our birthright as a people in the community of nations. This is the political will we need.

The Bible tells us again and again that if we seek God first, He will take care of our material needs. Despite our being the only Christian country in Asia this is no longer our priority. Instead we have embraced corruption, lies, personal agenda, compromises, etc. over and above the basic tenets of our faith. Love of God above all and love for our country and people first and foremost, these are our vision of governance. A deep commitment to our Christian Faith and to a nationalist doctrine - these will bring us to where we want to be as a country and people in the 21st Century - a sovereign, prosperous, peaceful and free nation.

To make our dreams a reality, we have the following program.

## PROGRAM OF GOVERNMENT

### I. Political Reforms

1. Immediate shift to a unicameral parliamentary and federal system for the country with appropriate number of regions such as Muslim Mindanao being divided into three federal states, taking into consideration ethnic, tribal, cultural, linguistic and economic elements.
2. Install immediately structures and institutions of the interim government.
3. Establish a revolutionary freedom Constitution until a new Constitution is framed and ratified by the people.
4. Reorganize the departments or ministries of government in such a manner that governance will be more systematic and the bureaucracy professionalized and trimmed down.
5. Far and adequate representation of the regions in all the branches of national and regional government.
6. Abolish Congress until the new government has conducted new elections.
7. Conduct thorough national reorientation, defining correct democratic parameters and prescribing proper conduct of leaders and citizens as well as foreigners who visit the country.
8. Allow dual citizenship of Filipinos who reside in countries which are not threats to our national security.
9. Abolish Comelec.
10. Foster national unity by respecting the Sharia Law, the Confederation of Sultanates and the heritage o f ethnic groups.
11. Change the name of the country because Philippines is a name originating from the name Philip, a Spanish syphilitic king.

### II. Social Reforms

1. Free and compulsory education from the elementary to the university level in the public school system.
2. Free medicines, medical attendance and hospitalization in the public health system.
3. Housing to be sold at cost to the poor and underprivileged.
4. Cancellation of PPA and other irrational char5ges in the supply of electricity and water.
5. Bringing down the price of rice with corresponding subsidy for rice farmers.
6. Settle once and for all questions on land titles and ownership.
7. Create agricultural settlements with complete facilities.

### III. Economic Reforms

1. Reversion to the government of all public utilities dealing with electricity, water, telecommunications ince they are not designed for profit but for public service.
2. Living wage and profit sharing for labor, with participation in the formulation and implementation of management and labor policies.
3. Using the Central Bank as instrument of national development.
4. Subsidy to the farmers and easy credit where the collateral is the viability of the project and the integrity of the borrower.
5. Re-engineer the land reform program as to primarily involve public lands, vacant lands, undeveloped lands and foreclosed lands.
6. Pegging the peso to the US dollar at a definite ration instead of the current floating rate.
7. Stress on the development of local industries and giving priority help to Filipino entrepreneurs.
8. Support and promote Filipino inventors and inventions and Filipino artists and their creations.
9. Protect and defend Filipino Overseas Contract Workers wherever they may be found.
10. Work on debt repudiation at the maximum or debt moratorium at the minimum.
11. Review our WTO-GATT commitments to protect Filipino industries.

### IV. Criminal Justice Reforms

1. Arrest, prosecute, convict and sentence criminals of all types, the grafters and the corrupt in government, the economic saboteurs, the drug lords, the smuggling lords, the kidnapping lords, murderers and rapists and criminals of all types with speed and without regard to status in life.
2. Public execution of all types of criminals committing heinous crimes as defined by the government like graft and corruption of a certain magnitude, plunder, economic sabotage, drug lords, gambling lords, kidnapping for ransom lords and their confederates, murder and rape, fraud of certain magnitude like pyramiding and fraud in connection with deployment of foreign contract workers, within the first six months of the term of the new government.
3. Immediate execution of those convicted by final judgment of capital offenses.
4. Confining criminals convicted of serious offenses in reformatory farms away from population centers.
5. Community service as penalties for light offenses instead of fines and or imprisonment.
6. Confiscation of all properties of economic saboteurs, the grafters and the corrupt, drug lords and pushers, kidnappers for ransom, smuggling lords, gambling lords, major tax evaders with unpaid taxes running up to tens of millions and the like with the exception of those who surrender eighty percent (80%) of their ill gotten wealth before their arrest and within one month from the assumption of the new government.
7. Adopt a new system for the administration of criminal justice by revising current criminal procedure to expedite the administration of justice.
8. Abolish the Office of the Ombudsman and place that office as a division in the Department of Justice.
9. Abolish the Sandigan Bayan and create a People's Court which will review on appeal cases involving public officials and their co-conspirators.
10. Create RTC branches which will try cases solely involving public officials and their co-conspirators.

### V. Reforms in the Conduct of Foreign Affairs

1. Implement an independent foreign policy with stress on the Filipino First Policy.
2. The most favored nation clause and reciprocity shall be the basis of our relationship with all countries of the world.
3. Limit the number of our embassies and ban partisan political appointments in the diplomatic corps and in the consular service.

### VI. Reforms in the Educational System

1. Revise totally the curriculum with stress on a humanist and Filipino value system, adopt the Paolo Freire (action-reflection-action or praxis)proposition approach to education instead of the banking method.
2. Emphasize love of country and the Filipino community.
3. Improve the training of teachers by sending them to take masteral and doctoral courses, especially in the physical sciences, here and abroad.

### VII. Reforms in the Military and Police

1. Create a Department of Homeland Security to replace the DILG.
2. Pursue a non-aggressive defense security policy and rename the AFP to the Philippine Self Defense Force.
3. Adopt a Joint Command Staff system.
4. Promotion and assignment in the military service shall be based on seniority and performance.
5. Provide housing facilities to members of the military establishment and their families which they shall own even after retirement.
6. Investigate, prosecute and convict erring officials and personnel in the RSBS, PVB, AFSLAI and similar financing and fraternal institutions.
7. Actively and aggressively prosecute the claims of Filipino veterans in the United States of America.
8. Define an inextendible time limit for the grant of pensions, retirement and veterans benefits, death and disability benefits for soldiers and their beneficiaries.

### VIII. Reforms in the Bureaucracy

1. Immediately upgrade the salaries of officials, civilian, military and the police in an effort to make them live decently and eradicate the temptation of graft and corruption.
2. Establish a professional bureaucracy devoid of partisan politics.
3. Make officials and employees participate in community activities, once a week, designed to improve the lives of Filipinos.
4. Infuse complete discipline and service with a smile in the public service so that the people will trust government.

### IX. Reforms in National Orientation

1. Weekly reform educational seminars in the schools and in the barangays to stress humanist and Filipino values and the promotion of correct behavioral conduct of citizens by themselves and among each other.

*This Program of Government is not the program of government presented by Gen. F. Abat. This was adopted from several proposed programs from different groups/sectors including the Alliance for National Transformation and Solidarity (ANTS).

MA. LINDA OLAGUER MONTAYRE
Civilian Sector, Transition Council

COMMODORE ISMAEL APARRI
Military Sector, Transition Council

**Movement for National Salvation-Movement for National Transformation-Alliance for National Transformation and Solidarity(ANTS)-People's Consultative Assembly/Koalisyon(PCA-Koalisyon)-FORCES-Young Enlisted Soldiers w/Active and Retired Military for Solidarity (YES ARMS)-Heart of the AFP-The Third Fold-One People One Mindanao Movement (OPM)-Raul Heredia Brigade-Retired Enlisted Men and Veterans' Association-Federation of Veterans,Region 8-Federation of ROTC Alumni Association (FRAAI)-Retired Enlisted Military and Police Association, Inc. (REMPAI)-Maradeka-Makabayang Aksyon ng Taumbayan (MATA)-Bagong Katipunan-Southern Tagalog Alliance for Good Governance-Concerned Citizens Alliance for Democracay, Intl. Chapter (CCAD Intl.)-CCAD, Rizal Chapter, Manila Chapter, Mandaluyong Chapter, Quezon City Chapter-Malay Democrats of the Philippines -PCA Koalisyon Youth-Concerned Ateneo Students for Transformation-Filipino Youth Initiative-Concerned Priests and Religious for National Renewal and Transformation (PACT)-Alliance for Good Government-Church Alliance for National Growth and Enhancement (CHANGE)-Muslim Christian Movement for Equality and Brotherhood-Christians for National Reform and Transformation-Catholic Laity for Good Government-Politicians and Bureaucrats for Transformation and Good Governance-PCA-Koalisyon Government Sector, Bicol Chapter, Southern Tagalog Chapter, Visayas Chapter, Mindanao Chapter, USA Chapter-Filipinos for Philippines Movement Eastcoast USA Chapter-Filipinos for the Philippines Movement, Mddle East Chapter-Organization for Reforms Against Government Oppression and Neglect (ORAGON), ! Movement- Silent Protest Movement- Partido Sosyalista-Overseas Alliance for Good Government-Sorsogon Farm Owners' Association-Bicol Alliance for Reforms-Women for Economic and Political Nationalism (WEAPON), ANTS Mindanao Chapter, Northern Luzon Chapter, Legal Sector, Business Sector, Women Sector, Visayas Chapter-Philsucom-Voice for Immediate Order in Society-Maharlika Salvation Brigade-Tinig ng Bayan Brigade-Victory for Liberty,Solidarity and Development-Holy Rosary Brigade-XY International Salvation Group-Piglas Pilipinas Movement-Nationalist Brigade-Be Not Afraid Brigade-Take the Pretender Out Prayer Brigade-Sinag Dambana Prayer Brigade-Pundok Mindanao, ASAP Inc.-KAAKBAY-Christian Democrats for National Transformation-Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF)-National Urban Poor Assembly-Samahan ng mga Maralitang Komunidad ng Pilipinas-Samahan ng Kabataan sa Komunidad-Farmers of the Philippines for Agro Reforms-National Federation of Small Coconut Farmers Organizations-Cordillera Bodong Association-CPLA-Solidarity and Union of the Philippine Rebel Returnees Movement-Bagong Pilipina Women's Organization-Movement of Organized Vendors of the Philippines-Lakas PInoy Labor Center-Federation of Land Reform Farmers of the Philippines-Apayao Nature Watch-Lakas Pinoy for a Strong Republic Northern Luzon Chapter-Alliance of Democratic Workers Union, Tanduay Workers Union, SOEN Workers Union, Unyon ng Kristong Haring Manggagawa-Christian Nationalists Union (CNU)-Movement for National Salvation, Davao Chapter, Pampanga Chapter, Zamboanga City Chapter, Tarlac Chapter, CotabatoCity/Maguindanao Chapter, Pasig Chapter, Iloilo Chapter, Cavite Chapter, QC Chapter, Rizal Chapter, Paco/Manila Chapter, Ilocos Sur Chapter, Siquijor/Visayas Chapter, Mindanao Chapter, Cubao QC Chapter, Malabon Chapter, Paranaque Chapter, Fairview QC Chapter, Diocese of Paranaque Chapter, Bohol Chapter, Bacolod/Negros Occidental Chapter, Bicol Chapter, Muntinlupa Chapter, Las Pinas Chapter**

**-For further inquiries pls contact 09279156344 / 09164487174 / 09173968758**

ADVT

# Shattered dreams …

From page A1

Joji Upano is the mother of twins who are to start college this year. You might say she received a "double whammy" from PPI.

"I am really worried and angry. This should not be happening. We bought the plan on the strength of its [PPI's] name. These are my hard-earned savings and we have sacrificed so much just to be able to pay off the plan all these years," she said.

Elizabeth Centena is concerned about the two children of her sister who is working in Dubai. Her sister is a widow who is banking on the education plans to fund her children's schooling.

Carmen Lina, 65, a widow from Sampaloc, Manila, retired from her job as a piano teacher. The two PPI plans she bought are her two children's only hope for a future.

"Right now, I have no source of income because I am already a senior citizen," she said.

Elsie Sales, 36, a mother from Bacoor, Cavite, is a former sales agent for PPI and a plan holder. She worries over her children's education and for the other parents in the same situation.

"My integrity as an agent is also affected. I am committed to giving good service to my clients because that is my job. How can I explain all of this to my clients?" said Sales.

Of PPI's 34,000 plan holders, about 16,000 have filed educational claims against PPI this school year.

## Rehabilitation plan

In the rehabilitation plan that it presented for approval to the Makati Regional Trial Court, PPI offered to return in 2010 the full amount of the plans still held by plan holders, plus interest of 7 percent each year until 2010.

For plan holders opting to avail themselves of their plans now, PPI offered to give them from P7,000 to P35,000 in tuition support in the coming school year.

On April 13, Judge Romeo Barza issued a stay order that effectively froze all PPI payments to creditors, suppliers and plan holders until the company was rehabilitated.

He accepted PPI's claim that what it had was a liquidity problem, that it had enough assets in its trust fund—about $50 million of government-guaranteed National Power Corp. bonds maturing in 2010—to pay back its plan holders.

The problem is that liquidating these trust fund assets to settle plan holders' claims is not a viable option at this time because of unfavorable market conditions, according to the PPI.

The judge allowed the company to use P341 million of company funds to pay for partial tuition support to those plan holders who filed claims this coming school year.

## Yuchengco's loan

On May 13, the Yuchengco family patriarch, Alfonso Yuchengco, extended a P250-million loan to the company, bringing the funds available for tuition support this year to P591 million, said PPI president Ernest Garcia.

PPI said it had pegged a tuition support ceiling of P22,000 per semester for those enrolled in non-exclusive schools and P28,000 for those in exclusive schools.

But PPI plan holders interviewed by the INQUIRER were unimpressed.

They said the amounts were very small and they were still faced with the basic question: Where will they get the money to pay for their children's tuition in the coming school year? They cannot wait for 2010 to get the money.

"It all really boils down to this. PPI broke the contract, not us. We faithfully paid for these plans through any means we could. And now they are telling us they can't meet their part of the contract?" said PEP president Philip Piccio.

He faulted the PPI management for not preparing for the inevitable deregulation of tuition, which had been foreshadowed by the passage of the Education Act of 1982.

"They should have seen that deregulation was already coming. Yet they didn't do anything," Piccio said.

## Pangilinan's call for probe

In this, he has an ally in Sen. Francis Pangilinan, who has filed a resolution calling for a Senate investigation of Pacific Plans.

"PPI cannot continue to blame the country's tuition deregulation law for their financial travails. What has Pacific Plans done with the money of these plan holders? Where have they invested them? They owe the public an explanation," he said.

Sen. Manuel Roxas II and Senate President Franklin Drilon have filed separate bills to regulate the industry. In the House, Rep. Jesli Lapus wrote a bill proposing a code for the pre-need industry, similar to the Insurance Code.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III has filed a bill prescribing criminal penalties for any person refusing to settle any claim for loss or damage for which an insurer may be liable.

## SEC's second look

The Securities and Exchange Commission's reported decision to take a position in the rehabilitation hearings as the industry regulator was a good break, said industry analysts.

Even better was its move to "take a second look at the company's finances," SEC secretary Gerard Lukban has said.

"We are doing this both for the information of the court and to learn from this experience also. We are trying to see where we went wrong," he said.

But the SEC cannot do anything until the court rules on the issue, according to Lukban.

"The proper venue to seek redress is [the] court. So far, what has been aired are only allegations. There is nothing conclusive," he said.

Barza has scheduled for May 25 the first hearing on the case and the PEP Coalition is preparing protest actions in front of the court building.

The PEP has been reaching out to other plan holders and is busy organizing chapters in Davao and Cebu. The group is even tying up with the College Assurance Plan's organized plan holders. One option for the PEP is to file a class action suit like the CAP plan holders.

The group's members have also been busy speaking before parents' associations in various schools. Chapters in schools, like the Ateneo de Manila University and Xavier University, are also being formed.

"People are becoming concerned and they want us to explain to them in simple terms the situation and what they can do," said Piccio.

Whether the coalition wins the case or not, members want to stay together and form some sort of consumer rights protection group, according to Piccio.

"It's about time that Filipino people stand up to things like these. If it won't be done today, when will it ever be done?" he asked.

They also sent an open letter to Yuchengco, reminding him of his company's legal and moral responsibility.

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# Yuchengco lauded for forking over ₱250M

SEVERAL prominent personalities in the business and public service sectors have expressed confidence that Pacific Plans Inc. (PPI), under the leadership of former Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco, would be able to overcome the financial crisis that the pre-need firm is experiencing.

Former Senate President Jovito Salonga said Yuchengco had demonstrated the values of honesty, integrity and patriotism, which he is known for, by forking over P250 million from his own pocket to help resolve the PPI financial problem.

"I have known Ambassador Yuchengco for many years, particularly of his unselfish service to the nation in various capacities, and his patriotism during the crucial years of martial rule," Salonga said in a statement.

Meneleo Carlos, chair of the Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI), described Yuchengco as "a living testament to the ideals of FPI."

Carlos said Yuchengco had long pursued with FPI members his dream of promoting competitive and socially concerned Philippine business enterprises.

"We commend Ambassador Yuchengco for directing his personal business interests in line with what is good for the nation in the long term," he said.

Ambassador Jose Macario Laurel IV, whose family owns Lyceum of the Philippines, believed that Yuchengco was being true to himself when he raised P250 million from his own resources in support of PPI.

"The soft spot behind a decade of firm leadership has earned him (Yuchengco) the respect of his colleagues in the diplomatic world. He is known to be a fair and just man. I admire him also for his high regard for education and for instilling good values among the youth," Laurel said.

Former Education Secretary Andrew Gonzalez said that "in raising P250 million from his personal resources to alleviate the plight of PPI parents with tuition problems, Ambassador Yuchengco certainly proved his commitment to serve the public unselfishly."

Moreover, Gonzalez said that "while it is a corporate matter that PPI should resolve, he (Yuchengco) went beyond the call of obligation to help plan holders cope with their children's school requirements."

"We both share the same high regard for education and I believe this is his way of showing it," he said.

Manila Jaycees president Pablo Carlos III praised Yuchengco for his unselfish contributions as a major donor to the Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Humanitarian Awards Search since 1983.

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# Solons on 'jueteng' take, says ex-solon

From page A1

Cruz, the Lingayen-Dagupan archbishop, earlier said the jueteng racket that brought down the administration of President Joseph Estrada in 2001 had grown bigger during the term of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The former congressman disclosed the names of his House colleagues who allegedly received payoffs from jueteng operators. Some of these lawmakers are still in Congress.

The INQUIRER source, however, requested that the names of his colleagues be withheld because there was no hard evidence to pin them down.

"There is never any evidence here," the ex-congressman said, echoing the statement of Cruz when lawmakers demanded solid proof from the archbishop.

The INQUIRER source claimed that he was close to a powerful jueteng financier in Luzon and that he was at times asked by this gambling lord to serve as his go-between to certain lawmakers.

A number of lawmakers demanded an increase in their payoffs, according to the source.

The payoffs to several Metro Manila lawmakers were meant to shield the gambling lord from congressional inquiries in aid of legislation.

## Crisp bills

Most of the time, the payoffs would be delivered in crisp bills straight from a bank every 15 days. "You could even read the bank's name on the paper used to wrap the money. It's new," he said.

This system, which had been in place even before the INQUIRER source assumed office, remains intact to this day. The ex-congressman said he learned about this from his dealings with the jueteng lord.

The source said the payoffs stopped for only a month after Estrada was deposed in 2001.

Asked to comment on these claims, another former congressman told the INQUIRER that he found the allegations incredible, saying that he never received payoffs nor was he ever approached by a jueteng lord during his term.

Even so, the INQUIRER source said the biggest payoffs usually went to mayors in Metro Manila because they were in a position to protect jueteng operations.

At least one ranking police official confirmed this.

"I've been a police official for a long time," the police official told the INQUIRER. "What I know is that there is a budget for LGUs (local government units). What I can't tell you is who among the local officials had chosen to receive it."

The INQUIRER source said he and his fellow lawmakers would talk about the jueteng payola at informal meetings in "videoke bars and golf courses."

"It's an open secret," he said. "That is why nothing will come out of the jueteng inquiry in Congress."

On top of their monthly payoff called "intelligentsia," some congressmen also received money for "special occasions" like birthdays or fiestas, according to the source.

"Sometimes, you'd be surprised that the money was bigger on a certain month. Then you realize that a fiesta is coming and that explains the increase," the source said.

Lawmakers use the payoffs to buy trophies or medals for basketball tournaments or to help out in fiesta preparations, according to the source.

In his case, the source said he used the monthly payoffs during "people's day," when scores of poor constituents would come knocking on his door for some cash to buy medicine, clothes and other needs.

According to the ex-congressman, the rest of the money went to "KBL"—short for *kasal* (wedding), *binyag* (baptism), *libing* (burial), the stuff of patronage politics.

"It was easy to rationalize," he said, when asked if he felt guilty about accepting the bribes. "The money was gone in two to three weeks anyway."

## 'Better'

What makes the jueteng payoff "better" is that an official need not go through all the hassle of having to take a cut from an infrastructure project, the other source of cash for congressmen.

"Unlike jueteng, you have to secure the funding first [for the project] and it takes a long time for it to be released. In jueteng, you have just to receive it," he said.

The source said that when he first became a congressman in the 1990s, it was a "table manager" who approached him and offered him cash. A table manager supervises jueteng operations in a territory. Most of the time, a jueteng lord is merely the financier.

"He told me all that was needed was for me to assign a staffer, and that they would work out how to deliver the money," he said.

The drop-off area was always a public place, and the money came on time.

"It was never late," he said.

He said some congressmen also asked the gambling lord for allowances for their trips abroad. The jueteng lord at times gave as much as $2,000, according to the source.

He said nothing would come out of the current congressional inquiry into jueteng.

"There have been many jueteng inquiries in the past, but nothing came out of it. As in the past, nothing will come out of it now," the source said.

# Governor, archbishop on 'hit' list, says Imee

**By Michael Lim Ubac**

IF ILOCOS Norte Rep. Imee Marcos is to be believed, Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca and Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz are now on an assassin's hit list.

Marcos yesterday said there was an indication that "a group of professional assassins" had been tapped by gambling lords to "silence" the governor and the bishop, both of whom have spoken openly against "jueteng" operations in northern Luzon.

"The stakes are getting higher day by day and I'm sure Archbishop Cruz and Governor Padaca realize that they have put their lives on the line when they started this campaign," said the daughter of the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

Representative Marcos urged Cruz and Padaca to take precautionary measures as "big jueteng operators are bound to launch a counter-attack against these two brave crusaders."

The lawmaker, however, refused to identify the jueteng lords, or give the names of her sources.

Cruz claimed that jueteng had worsened under the Arroyo administration, while Padaca said that most of the Isabela mayors and police officials were on the take.

When contacted by the INQUIRER through her mobile phone, Padaca described herself as a "lone ranger."

"Even during the last (gubernatorial) election, I was not afraid of death threats because politicians think first of the consequences of their actions," she said.

But when jueteng lords are involved, "it might be a different story because all they're after is to protect their purse."

So Padaca now observes security precautions, allowing a backup vehicle to follow her car whenever she moves around.

SAGISAG NG PANGULO NG PILIPINAS

**PRESIDENT** Macapagal-Arroyo witnesses the signing of a P5-million "press freedom" fund by (from left) Antonio Antonio of the National Press Club, Speaker Jose de Venecia, Inday Espina-Varona of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines and Jose Pavia of the Philippine Press Institute.

EDWIN BACASMAS

# Pimentel, Lapid ...

From page A1

[Are you referring to me or are you the only one with clean hands?]" said Lapid, forgetting the parliamentary rule of addressing his statements to Senate President Franklin Drilon, who was presiding over the session.

Lapid asked if Pimentel was alluding to his committee members, including Senators Jinggoy Estrada, Manuel Roxas II and Ramon Revilla.

"Who is that someone with clean hands you are referring to that should handle the investigation?" Lapid, chair of the committee on games, amusement and sports, asked in Filipino.

"I said you should not handle the probe. If you don't get it, I don't know how I would explain it," Pimentel said.

Pimentel questioned Lapid's objectivity in handling the investigation, saying he once governed Pampanga which Pimentel had described as the "Vatican of jueteng."

Pimentel also said politics might taint the inquiry, alluding to Lapid's being an ally and province mate of President Macapagal-Arroyo, whose husband and son were being linked to jueteng.

In his speech titled "The probe on jueteng calls for probers with clean hands," Pimentel said he was asking Lapid to inhibit himself not because he was a Kapampangan but because he had "provided proof that he won't be able to give the investigation free rein for the truth to come out."

## Lapid clears Pineda

"For one thing, he has cleared Bong Pineda, who everyone in Pampanga and in Central Luzon, including the archbishop of Lingayen, says is involved in the operation of jueteng," the minority leader said.

Also his [Lapid's] son, the incumbent governor of Pampanga, is one of the persons to be invited to the hearings, Pimentel added.

"How, under the circumstances, the chair will handle the investigation with clean hands escapes me," he said.

He suggested four options to ensure that Lapid would not preside over the inquiry.

Pimentel proposed that the committee on public order and illegal drugs chaired by administration Sen. Manuel Villar be designated the lead committee, or that the Senate hold a joint inquiry with the House of Representatives because of the gravity of the jueteng problem.

If Lapid heeds his call, Pimentel suggested that Lapid's vice chair, Jinggoy Estrada, also not chair the committee.

Pimentel asked that the hearing scheduled for Wednesday be moved to allow the senators to find another chair.

## Names of jueteng lords

"I would like the identities of the jueteng lords revealed and their protectors in the officialdom unmasked. I would like to know the amounts of bribe money that pass from the jueteng lords to their bribees. I want the overall havoc that jueteng brings to the nation and our people assessed. And I want to find out just what we can do about it as legislators," Pimentel said.

The expected output will not be achieved unless the chair inhibits himself or unless the committee on public order and illegal drugs is made the lead committee of the jueteng probe, he said.

Lapid denied that he had cleared Pineda, known to be one of the biggest jueteng lords in Central Luzon. He said Pineda was just an acquaintance.

"*Hindi pa nalilinis dahil hindi pa nadudumihan*" was how Lapid described Pineda, whose wife is the mayor of Lubao, the President's hometown.

Senators Panfilo Lacson Jr. and Richard Gordon came to Lapid's rescue. They said Lapid should be given the chance to show that he could conduct an objective inquiry.

Drilon said the scheduled hearing for Wednesday would not push through until Pimentel's motion to make Villar's committee the lead body was heard.

Drilon suggested that Lapid's and Villar's committees hold a joint hearing as a compromise.

He said Lapid and Villar would be co-chairs of the hearings.

The Senate President said the committees could come up with one or separate reports after the hearing. "It's up to the chamber to decide [which report to adopt]," Drilon said.

# Get Esperat slay mastermind, GMA orders

From page A1

the children and relatives of Esperat in Malacañang yesterday.

The lawyer told Ms Arroyo that the 15 cases Esperat had filed against several officials—including several members of the Cabinet and two congressmen—could be the key to unmasking the mastermind, Gonzalez said.

Earlier, two of the four supposed assailants of Esperat alleged that Osmena Montaner and Estrella Sabay, regional finance officer and accountant of the DA office in Region 12 (Soccsksargen), respectively, had financed the killing.

"I am quite convinced that it does not stop there," Gonzalez said.

Both Montaner and Sabay denied involvement.

## Evidence needed

But he said that the DOJ had to establish the link to any other official who might be involved.

"In effect, the President has given the go-signal to go against anybody involved," he said.

Asked whether they could be members of the Cabinet, Gonzalez replied: "We will go as far as anybody if there is evidence."

Asked again by reporters if he was referring to Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, the highest official in the department, Gonzalez answered with a smile: "That can be a witch-hunt already."

Gonzalez said he was not pinpointing responsibility to anybody just yet until he receives copies of the cases Esperat filed in the Office of the Ombudsman.

## Graft charges

He said Esperat's lawyers had promised to furnish him the documents.

Two hours after the interview, realizing the implications of what he had said, Gonzalez instructed a press official to say that he was not pointing to any member of the Cabinet as the possible mastermind.

Among those Esperat charged with graft were Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, Agriculture Undersecretary Cesar Drilon—brother of Senate President Franklin Drilon—and several other ranking DA officials for the alleged smuggling of P23 million worth of chicken leg quarters from the United States last year.

Pichay and Drilon have denied the charges.

Esperat had also filed a graft complaint against Yap, former Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante and several others in relation to alleged irregularities in a P432-million fertilizer deal in 2003.

## Charges denied

Both Yap and Bolante also denied the charges.

In October 2003, Esperat also filed a complaint against Mindanao Deputy Ombudsman Antonio Valenzuela for alleged bias toward DA officials facing graft charges in Central Mindanao.

She also accused former Rep. Lino Montilla of irregularities.

Esperat also accused Sumail Sekak, agriculture director for Central Mindanao, and his wife of graft, resulting in their dismissal from the service.

Gonzalez said Ms Arroyo had also asked him to order the arrest of Montaner and Sabay after they failed to appear in a preliminary investigation of their cases at the DOJ.

But the secretary said this might no longer be necessary because the two had promised to appear this week.

Gonzalez said the President had already turned over to him P1 million of the P5-million "freedom fund" for use in the witness protection program, but he said he had decided to use the money to reward people who give tips and evidence in the killing of journalists.

## Money for informers

"We are going to use the money to encourage whistle-blowers and tipsters to come out," he said.

Ms Arroyo condemned the killing of journalists as she and Speaker Jose de Venecia launched the press freedom fund intended to speed up the solution of cases involving the murder of media people.

The fund will provide reward money for informants who could help crack the cases and provide financial assistance to the families of the victims.

Ms Arroyo donated P3 million to the fund. De Venecia put up P2 million from his pork barrel funds and added another P200,000.

## Killings must stop

Ms Arroyo conceded that "the attacks against our journalists are frightening and must be stopped."

"The murder of journalists is but one sad chapter in the growing culture of violence that's creeping into modern societies," she said.

She expressed the fear that "our culture of today is generating far too much violence and having an increasingly harsh impact on our young and the vulnerable."

She added: "These acts of wanton violence against the men and women who form the very foundation of a free press and open society are acts of violence to the nation itself."

The country cannot stand proud as a nation "if you let cowards cut down defenders of democracy," she said.

"We won't rest until the perpetrators of these vicious crimes have been brought to justice and punished," the President said.

## Whole justice system alerted

She said she had ordered the authorities "to leave no stone unturned in tracking down these cold-blooded killers."

"The whole criminal justice system has been alerted and put in motion ... We must solve these crimes but we must also go beyond these crimes to turn the culture of violence around."

De Venecia expressed to reporters his fear that the unsolved murders of mostly community journalists would embolden others to attack journalists based in Metro Manila.

"If they can get away with [killing community journalists], they can shift ... [and] go after Metro Manila journalists," he said.

## Fund welcomed

Inday Espina-Varona, chair of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, said the media fund was a "welcome development" and "an acknowledgement of the crisis that faces the media profession in the country."

"The fund is a step toward resolving the country's press freedom crisis," Varona said, but added: "It is not the solution."

A sister of Esperat, Valmie Mariveles, attended the media fund launching at the Palace and thanked officials for their concern.

### *Justice urged for slain journalists*

THE MEDIA ethics body, Philippine Press Council, voiced alarm at the murder of journalists and urged law-enforcers to punish the guilty.

Conceding that inaccuracies may have occurred in some media reports, the council said in a statement that differences with journalists could be settled civilly.

Those aggrieved may write to the editors or elevate their complaints to the council itself.

"We offer the Press Council as an alternative to lawsuits ... But definitely nothing justifies killing journalists," it said.

"We exhort our colleagues in the news profession to continue to seek the truth, despite the very real threats to their safety, observing the highest professional and ethical standards," it said.

# IBP board expels De Vera

By C.V. Esguerra

THE NEWLY elected president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines may not be assuming the IBP presidency after all.

Leonard de Vera, who is set to assume the IBP presidency on July 1, has been expelled as IBP board member by the IBP's board of governors.

The nine-man IBP board voted 6-3 in favor of expelling De Vera as board member for allegedly rallying fellow lawyers in opposing IBP's position on a new law jacking up court transaction fees.

But De Vera yesterday said he would question the IBP resolution ousting him from the board before the Supreme Court. He said his expulsion was not "automatic" and would require the high court's approval.

"The truth of the matter is that I'm being harassed and penalized for taking a position opposed to the board's," he told the INQUIRER.

De Vera has opposed IBP's decision to withdraw a previous petition questioning the constitutionality of the law increasing court fees. He and a number of IBP chapters want the IBP to continue fighting in behalf of the public.

A certain Zoilo Antonio Velez, a lawyer, had earlier sought and gotten a temporary restraining order barring De Vera from sitting as IBP president, a position he's supposed to automatically assume being the board's executive vice president.

On Thursday, IBP governor Romulo Rivera filed a complaint with the IBP and sought De Vera's removal as member of its board of governors.

De Vera was accused of rallying delegates at last month's plenary session in Baguio to oppose the IBP resolution that withdrew its opposition to the court fee increase.

The following day, De Vera said the IBP board voted to oust him and denied his motion to present evidence.

Rivera allegedly initially inhibited from the proceedings but later voted against him when the IBP board decided, 5-3, to boot De Vera out. De Vera said a two-thirds vote of the nine-man board were needed to expel a member.

De Vera said Rivera got his wish when outgoing IBP president Jose Cadiz "illegally" allowed another round of voting.

"It was a kangaroo court," De Vera alleged. "Rivera acted as accuser, prosecutor and judge. They think I'm a threat to them. Some people just feel naturally insecure."

But De Vera found an ally in Senen Glinoga of the IBP's Quezon province chapter who said his ouster was brought by the "tyranny of the minority."

"When the majority of the board voted against him, they didn't represent the interest and sentiment of the IBP members," Glinoga told the INQUIRER.

# Jamby, bishops act to block CA nod for Defensor

By Blanche S. Rivera

IT'S GOING to be rough sailing for Environment Secretary Michael Defensor in the Commission on Appointments today after 22 representatives of environmental and religious groups filed a formal opposition to his appointment.

Defensor's critics, led by Sen. Jamby Madrigal, said he should not be allowed to head the Department of Environment and Natural Resources because he was "primarily a businessman and exploiter, not an environmentalist."

"*Trabaho lang, walang personalan* (It's just a job, nothing personal). Even before he attacked me with libelous statements, we had already disagreed on some things," Madrigal said at a press conference yesterday.

Those also opposed to Defensor's confirmation are Catholic bishops Julio Labayen of Infanta, Quezon; Jose Manguiran of Dipolog City, Ramon Villena of Nueva Vizcaya and Deogracias Iñiguez of Caloocan City; Bishop Solito Toquero of the United Methodist Church and Bishop Ephraim Fajutagana of the Iglesia Independiente, as well as Fr. Robert Reyes of Gomburza.

Madrigal said seven other bishops were set to join the loose coalition of Defensor critics, which calls itself No To M.I.K.E., short for Mining and Illegal logging Kill the Environment.

"Since his appointment, Mr. Defensor has openly advocated policies and programs which are adverse to environmental protection and conservation," Labayen said in his affidavit.

DEFENSOR

MADRIGAL

The bishops cited the DENR's lifting of the moratorium on quarrying in Quezon, where hundreds were killed and thousands displaced after four successive typhoons hit the province late last year.

Malou Bautista, who lost 10 family members, including her two children, in the flash floods, said Defensor had promised that the logs that had come tumbling down the mountains would be used to rebuild their homes but these continued to be shipped out of the province.

"I respect them, but I feel that there are unfair and unfounded accusations against my person and particularly my position as secretary of the DENR," Defensor said in a hastily called press conference two hours after Madrigal's media briefing.

"It's unfair that I'm being accused as the personal marketing agent of the country on mining. It was Congress [that] approved it and the Supreme Court [that] upheld it. If they have anything against mining, they should bring it to the Supreme Court," he said.

Defensor said that since mining had been approved by Congress, he was working to make sure the government would implement responsible mining in the country.

He also explained that quarrying in Quezon was limited to the river beds and was allowed because Quezon residents themselves wanted the infrastructure in the province completed.

The logs for housing, he said, were all accounted for and would be turned over to the Department of Social Welfare and Development for its joint project with Gawad Kalinga.

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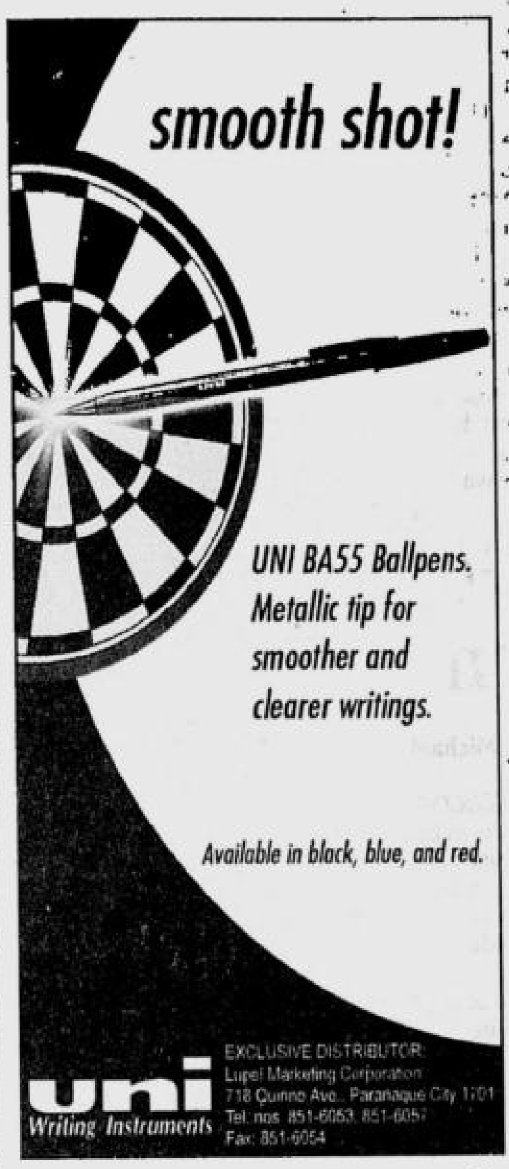
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## The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

# US Senate links Russian officials to Iraq oil scam

By Evelyn Leopold

**UNITED NATIONS—Saddam Hussein's government provided Kremlin officials with oil rights worth millions of dollars under the oil-for-food program in a quest to lift UN sanctions against Iraq, a US Senate panel report concluded on Monday.**

The oil allocations were "compensation for support," former Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan was quoted in the report issued by the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

The report, based on interviews with Iraqi officials, including Tareq Aziz, the former deputy prime minister, follows a trail of money, leading to Alexander Voloshin, the former chief of staff to Russian President Vladimir Putin and former President Boris Yeltsin.

Another major beneficiary was ultranationalist legislator Vladimir Zhirinovsky, a regular visitor to Iraq.

There is no evidence Putin knew of the payments, Senate investors said.

Saddam's goal was the lifting of sanctions imposed after Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait in 1990. Under the oil-for-food program, which began in late 1996 and ended in 2003, Iraq was allowed to sell oil under supervision and buy goods to ease in the impact of the embargoes on ordinary Iraqis.

The Russian allocations had been disclosed in an October CIA report by Charles Duelfer, a former US and UN weapons inspector. But the Senate report contains more documents and details.

It traces the transactions to the Russian Presidential Council that Voloshin headed via shell companies, particularly Haverhill Trading Ltd. in Cyprus, to Russian oil firms, such as Rosneft, and the Houston-based Bayoil Inc., whose executives were indicted by federal prosecutors last month.

But diplomats noted that Russia, then Iraq's closest ally on the UN Security Council, had major qualms about the sanctions since 1992, mainly because Iraq owed Moscow billions of dollars for past weaponry and other items.

Zhirinovsky and his Russian Liberal Democrat Party were awarded the rights to sell 75.8 million barrels of Iraqi crude oil from June 1997 to December 2002, the report said. Those contracts probably netted $8.679 million in profits, it added.

The panel estimated at least $3 million was netted by the Russian Presidential Council, either through Voloshin or his confidant, Sergei Isakov. The transactions also resulted in $5.6 million in kickbacks or surcharges to Iraq.

Voloshin and Zhirinovsky previously denied the allegations and the Russian officials had said they would wait for a definitive report from Paul Volcker, appointed by the United Nations to conduct a independent inquiry into the program.

The Russian allegations are part of a Senate committee hearing on Tuesday.

"The purpose of these hearings is to lay out in detail... the massive volume of allocations to Russia when Russia is an oil-exporting nation," said Sen. Norm Coleman, the Minnesota Republican and chair of the panel.

The $67 billion UN program began to be seriously abused in late 2000, when Iraq demanded "surcharges" on oil exports.

This changed in mid-2001 when Britain and the United States set UN oil prices retroactively in a Security Council panel.

At the same time, the United States, Britain and France attempted to cut down the UN list of 700 oil buyers, many of them shell companies. But Russia refused.

Iraq would not sell directly to American firms so a Russian firm bought the oil on paper while Bayoil arranged for the lifting. The United States, through Bayoil and other oil companies, received two-thirds of Iraqi exports during the time the surcharge was being paid, industry sources said. *Reuters*

**UNIVERSE AT HER FEET**

**Cynthia Olavarria, Miss Puerto Rico Universe 2005, poses in her BSC swimsuit during the taping of a Miss Universe 2005 segment at the Dusit Thani hotel in Bangkok, May 15. The 54th annual Miss Universe competition will take place in Bangkok on May 31.** AFP

# Indonesia tests more pigs for bird flu virus

JAKARTA—Indonesia is testing pigs in several regions for bird flu after discovering the virus in swine on densely populated Java island, an official said on Monday.

The finding last week heightened fears that the sometimes deadly virus could spread to humans in the world's fourth-most populous country and Southeast Asia's biggest economy.

Pigs can carry human flu viruses, which can combine with the avian viruses, swap genes and create virulent new strains, health experts say.

They fear the virus could mutate into a form which can pass easily among humans and trigger a global pandemic that could kill millions.

Tests have been conducted in several places, including the resort island of Bali, but so far only one area in West Java has shown positive tests for avian influenza in pigs.

Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim country and pig farming is not widespread. Islam regards pigs as unclean animals.

"It's being carried out, but until today the results of the (other) sites show negative," the director of animal health at the agriculture ministry, Tri Satya Putri Naipospos, said.

"The pigs are not showing signs of being unhealthy, and thus we can't say they're infected. So far, three (pigs in West Java) are positive carrying the strain," she said.

She declined to give details of the location where the positive tests were made or elaborate on the kinds of measures the government was taking, saying she feared public panic.

But she said authorities were taking necessary biosecurity and surveillance measures to keep the situation under control.

"Let the government work on this first," she said.

Naipospos said authorities had not decided whether to conduct a mass cull of pigs.

So far there have been no reports of people in Indonesia being infected by the bird flu virus. Since 2003, 36 Vietnamese, 12 Thais and four Cambodians have been killed by the H5N1 strain.

On Monday, health officials reported Vietnam's first human case in a month—a 52-year-old Vietnamese man who ate chicken that had died of a disease.

Specimens from Indonesian poultry workers have been sent for tests in Hong Kong as a precaution, officials said. *Reuters*

# 14 get to US inventors hall of fame

AKRON, Ohio—Electric guitar pioneer Les Paul was one of 14 people inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame this year.

Paul invented the solid body electric guitar in 1946, and his Gibson Guitar Corp. model is one of the best-selling instruments in the industry. The 89-year-old is widely renowned for his recording techniques.

Paul also has won five Grammy Awards.

Other inventors inducted on Saturday included Dr. Alec Jeffreys, who invented genetic fingerprinting, and Robert Gundlach, who has earned more than 150 patents and invented the modern photocopier.

The hall was founded in 1973 by the US Patent and Trademark Office and the National Council of Intellectual Property Law Associations.

It accepts nominations on its Web site but inductees are selected by a committee including leaders in scientific and technical fields. There are 235 inductees in the hall of fame. *AP*

# Just tell me why you did it, grieving father asks IRA bomber

By Paul Majendie

ENNISKILLEN, Northern Ireland—After 25 years of grieving, John Maxwell dearly wants to ask the IRA bomber who killed his teenage son a simple question: "Why did you do it?"

Only when he knows the answer can he bury the ghosts from one of the most notorious Irish Republican Army attacks in its 30-year fight to oust Britain from Northern Ireland.

Maxwell's 15-year-old son Paul was the boat-boy for Queen Elizabeth's cousin Lord Louis Mountbatten. Both were killed in 1979 when an IRA bomb exploded on board shortly after they set sail from the fishing village of Mullaghmore in County Sligo, northwest Ireland.

Under the terms of the 1998 Good Friday accord that brought an uneasy peace to Northern Ireland, hardline prisoners were released early from jail. Among them was Thomas McMahon, the bomber who killed Maxwell's son and three others.

"I would like to meet him. If there is any sign that we share a common humanity, it would be worth it," the retired schoolteacher said in an interview about the trauma that scarred his life.

"If he could come halfway towards seeing my point of view, it would be worthwhile," Maxwell said of McMahon, who was released in 1998 and now lives across the border in the Irish Republic.

In the British province where more than 3,600 people were killed in three decades of sectarian violence between Protestants and Catholics, Maxwell brings those grim statistics poignantly alive.

Now 68, white-haired and bearded, he admits it took him 18 years to pluck up the courage to see a psychotherapist and relive that nightmare day when his son ended up in the wrong place at the wrong time.

"It was unfinished business. I was holding it all in. I cried for two hours. That was a big turning point for me," he said. *AP*

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# Russian tycoon found guilty of 4 charges

MOSCOW—A Moscow judge on Monday found former head of Russian oil major Yukos Mikhail Khodorkovsky guilty of four of the charges against him.

He was found guilty of theft with conspiracy, damage to property rights via fraud, malicious failure to obey a court order and personal tax evasion.

The judge was still reading the verdict on the total of seven charges against Khodorkovsky.

Khodorkovsky, on trial for tax evasion and embezzlement, has gone from being the quintessential post-Soviet business baron to the nation's most famous prisoner.

Pictures of the 41-year-old, who has been in jail since his arrest on Oct. 25, 2003, and whose verdict hearing began on Monday, used to show the bespectacled billionaire hobnobbing with the likes of Bill Gates at charity events.

Today they show him staring out from behind bars of a metal cage the traditional place for defendants in Russian courtrooms.

Prosecutors have requested a 10-year jail sentence for Khodorkovsky, and he faces the prospect of seeing his personal fortune confiscated and the company he built broken apart.

How distant such a possibility seemed ahead of Khodorkovsky's arrest in late October 2003.

Prior to his arrest, Khodorkovsky was Russia's richest man, with a worth that Fortune magazine estimated at $15 billion (10 billion euros)—one of Russia's most famous post-Soviet oligarchs.

**KHODORKOVSKY**

The onetime member of the Communist Komsomol youth movement, Khodorkovsky was among a handful of men who deftly adapted and took advantage of the chaos that accompanied the crumbling of the Soviet Union to emerge with incredible wealth.

He failed at his first entrepreneurial venture, a cafe, made money by importing computers and at age 26, established Bank Menatep.

Menatep made a killing by converting credit vouchers that Soviet firms used in barter transactions into hard currency and by 1995, Khodorkovsky was ready for his next step—getting a piece of the state's vast oil industry.

He gained control over Yukos through a shady privatization during which insiders picked up Russia's choice natural resources assets for bargain-basement prices at questionable auctions.

At the Menatep-organized auction, Khodorkovsky and his associates paid a reported $390 million for Yukos, which before his arrest had a market capitalization of more than $30 billion.

The soft-spoken Khodorkovsky aggressively consolidated control over what eventually became Yukos, muscling out foreign minority shareholders.

After the 1998 financial crisis, he invested massive amounts back into Yukos, which became the first Russian major to adopt international accounting standards and began to hire Western-trained managers.

Prior to his arrest, Yukos was considered Russia's most transparent and best-governed company, an investor darling that, in the words of one analyst was "the poster-child of post-default Russian reforms."

He arranged a merger with a smaller Russian rival Sibneft, which created the world's fourth-largest oil and natural gas producer, and there was talk of a US major buying a stake in the new behemoth. *Reuters, AFP*

# 38 bodies dumped in 3 Iraq sites

BAGHDAD—The bodies of 38 men shot execution-style were found dumped around an abandoned chicken farm, a trash-strewn lot and an insurgent stronghold west of the capital, police said. The grisly finds were the latest in an endless stream of violence, much of it designed to destabilize Iraq's new government and hasten a US retreat.

More than 450 people have been killed in just over two weeks since Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari's Cabinet was announced. At least 10 more Iraqis were killed in a spree of bombings and shootings Sunday.

On a lightning visit Sunday, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice urged Iraqis to be patient, saying the insurgency can be beaten with the help of a strong political alternative.

"The insurgency is very violent but you defeat insurgencies not just militarily," Rice said after meeting with al-Jaafari and other officials in Baghdad and the northern Kurdish region. "The Iraqis... are now going to have to intensify their efforts to demonstrate that in fact the political process is the answer for the Iraqi people."

A road side bomb exploded early Monday targeting a passing Iraqi army convoy in Baghdad's southwestern Saydiya district, but the blast instead killed two civilians and wounded four others, including two Iraqi soldiers, said police Lt. Hussein Alwan.

On Sunday, police in Baghdad's Sadr City, a Shiite-dominated slum, found 13 slain men, most appearing to be in their 20s and three of them bearded, lying face down in a shallow grave in a lot Sunday. Residents told police a truck dumped the bodies there early Sunday and three people covered them with dirt, said policeman Lt. Col. Hafidh Maan.

An Associated Press photographer saw the bodies lying in the ground, their hands tied behind their back, eyes blindfolded and at least three bullet wounds in each of their heads. The men were wearing civilian clothes, and had no identifying documents. *AP*

# Corporate employee Japan top taxpayer

TOKYO—A fund manager headed the list of Japan's top individual taxpayers in 2004, becoming the first company employee to reach the pinnacle, the National Tax Agency said on Monday.

Tatsuro Kiyohara, 46, paid 3.69 billion yen ($34.35 million) in income tax, mostly from commission earnings through his work at Tower Investment Management Co.

While Kiyohara is estimated to have earned 10 billion yen last year by working for the firm, some 30 percent—the largest group—of those in the top 100 won their spots due to gains from stock transactions, Kyodo news agency said.

Those who earned their income through salaries accounted for 26 percent and those through stock dividends came to 19 percent, Kyodo added.

Kiyohara is the first corporate employee to top the standings since the agency began disclosing them in 1984, beating executives of health food firms who have become regulars on the list recently.

Hitori Saito, operator of a diet product sales network who topped the list in 2003 on the back of a health-food boom among Japanese women, fell to fourth place. *Reuters*

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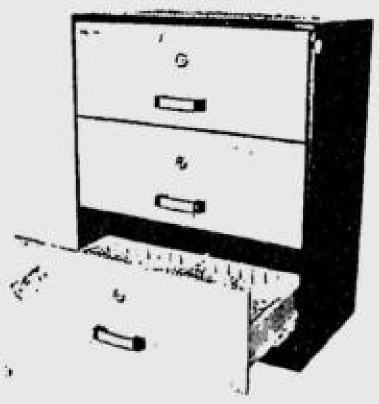
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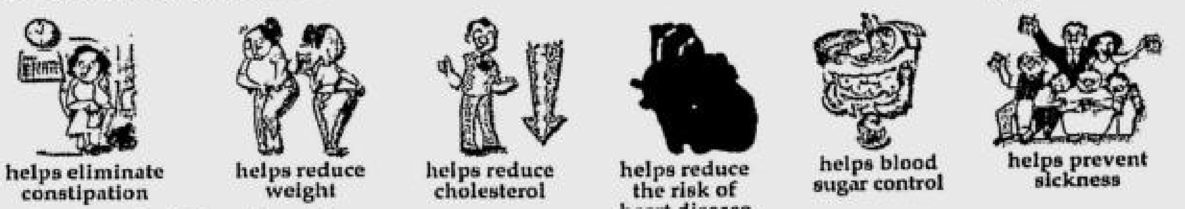
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# Newsweek says sorry for explosive Koran report

**AN AFGHAN** boy reads the Holy Koran at the Hazrat-e-Bilal Mosque in Kabul, May 16. AFP

WASHINGTON—Newsweek magazine said on Sunday it erred in a May 9 report that US interrogators desecrated the Koran at Guantanamo Bay, and apologized to the victims of deadly Muslim protests sparked by the article.

Editor Mark Whitaker said the magazine inaccurately reported that US military investigators had confirmed that personnel at the detention facility in Cuba had flushed the Muslim holy book down the toilet.

The report sparked angry and violent protests across the Muslim world from Afghanistan, where 16 were killed and more than 100 injured, to Pakistan to Indonesia to Gaza. In the past week it was condemned in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Malaysia and by the Arab League.

On Sunday, Afghan Muslim clerics threatened to call for a holy war against the United States.

"We regret that we got any part of our story wrong, and extend our sympathies to victims of the violence and to the US soldiers caught in its midst," Whitaker wrote in the magazine's latest issue, due to appear on US newsstands on Monday.

The weekly news magazine said in its May 23 edition that the information had come from a "knowledgeable government source" who told Newsweek that a military report on abuse at Guantanamo Bay said interrogators flushed at least one copy of the Koran down a toilet in a bid to make detainees talk.

But Newsweek said the source later told the magazine he could not be certain he had seen an account of the Koran incident in the military report and that it might have been in other investigative documents or drafts.

Whitaker said that Newsweek did not know if the reported toilet incident involving the Koran ever occurred. "As to whether anything like this happened, we just don't know," he said in an interview. "We're not saying it absolutely happened but we can't say that it absolutely didn't happen either."

The acknowledgment by the magazine came amid heightened scrutiny of the US media, which has seen a rash of news organizations fire reporters and admit that stories were fabricated or plagiarized.

The Pentagon told the magazine the report was wrong last Friday, saying it had investigated earlier allegations of Koran desecration from detainees and found them "not credible."

Newsweek reported that Pentagon spokesperson Lawrence DiRita reacted angrily when the magazine asked about the source's continued assertion that he had read about the Koran incident in an investigative report. "People are dead because of what this son of a bitch said. How could he be credible now?" DiRita told Newsweek.

The May 9 report, which appeared as a brief item by Michael Isikoff and John Barry in the magazine's "Periscope" section, had a huge international impact, sparking the protests from Muslims who consider the Koran the literal word of God and treat each book with deep reverence.

Desecration of the Koran is punishable by death in Afghanistan and Pakistan. *Reuters*

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# Tension on Uzbek border after deadly crackdown

ANDIJAN, Uzbekistan—Tension simmered on Uzbekistan's eastern border Monday, days after a military crackdown in the nearby city of Andijan left dozens of people dead and sparked unusually strong criticism of Tashkent in the West.

Gunshots were reported overnight in the Uzbek town of Kara-Suu that lies along the border with Kyrgyzstan, where government buildings had been set ablaze after the clashes in nearby Andijan.

"There are reports coming to me according to which there were gunshots in Kara-Suu during the night," a foreign diplomat said by phone. "The situation there is quite tense."

The situation in the town appeared calm Monday afternoon, but there were no signs of federal authorities on the streets, where a few days before angry residents set fire to a police station, tax ministry building and a customs office, according to an AFP correspondent on the scene.

After a military crackdown in the nearby Uzbek town of Andijan on Friday, in which dozens and possibly hundreds of people were feared to have been killed, scores of Uzbeks have sought to cross into Kyrgyzstan across the canal to the refugee camp that Kyrgyz authorities had set up on the other side, which was reported to be holding some 900 people on Sunday.

Kyrgyz border authorities have increased patrols along the Uzbek border near Kara-Suu.

"With the aim of preventing destructive elements from entering the country... the chief of border guards... decided to set up temporary checkpoints on the Uzbek-Kyrgyz border in the region of Kara-Suu along the Shakhrikhansai Canal," said Gulmira Borubayeva, the spokeswoman for the border guards.

Kyrgyz border officials said Monday that up to 150 people had been detained overnight trying to cross the border.

The bloodshed in Andijan started early Friday, when weeks-long demonstrations over the trial of 23 local businessmen boiled over. Prosecutors had accused the men of belonging to an outlawed Islamic group.

Armed backers of the accused stormed a local prison to free them, along with some 2,000 other prisoners, and thousands of people then reportedly converged on Andijan's main square in what quickly turned into an antigovernment rally. *AFP*

# Inquiry: Malaysia police corrupt

KUALA LUMPUR—An official inquiry into Malaysia's police force has recommended sweeping reforms to eliminate corruption and human rights abuses, called for a draconian security law to be amended and pressed for greater political freedom.

The Royal Commission's 485-page report, made available to the public Monday, makes 125 recommendations for improvements to a police force viewed by many as brutal, riddled with graft and biased against political opponents of the government.

Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi announced he would head a task force to review and implement the recommendations, which include a call for an independent police complaints and misconduct commission.

Parliamentary opposition leader Lim Kit Siang Monday hailed the commission as "the most significant reform measure" taken by Abdullah since he took over from former premier Mahathir Mohamad 18 months ago.

Headed by former chief justice Dzaiddin Abdullah, the commission said the top three priorities for reform were reducing crime, followed by the eradication of corruption and then stamping out human rights abuses. *AFP*

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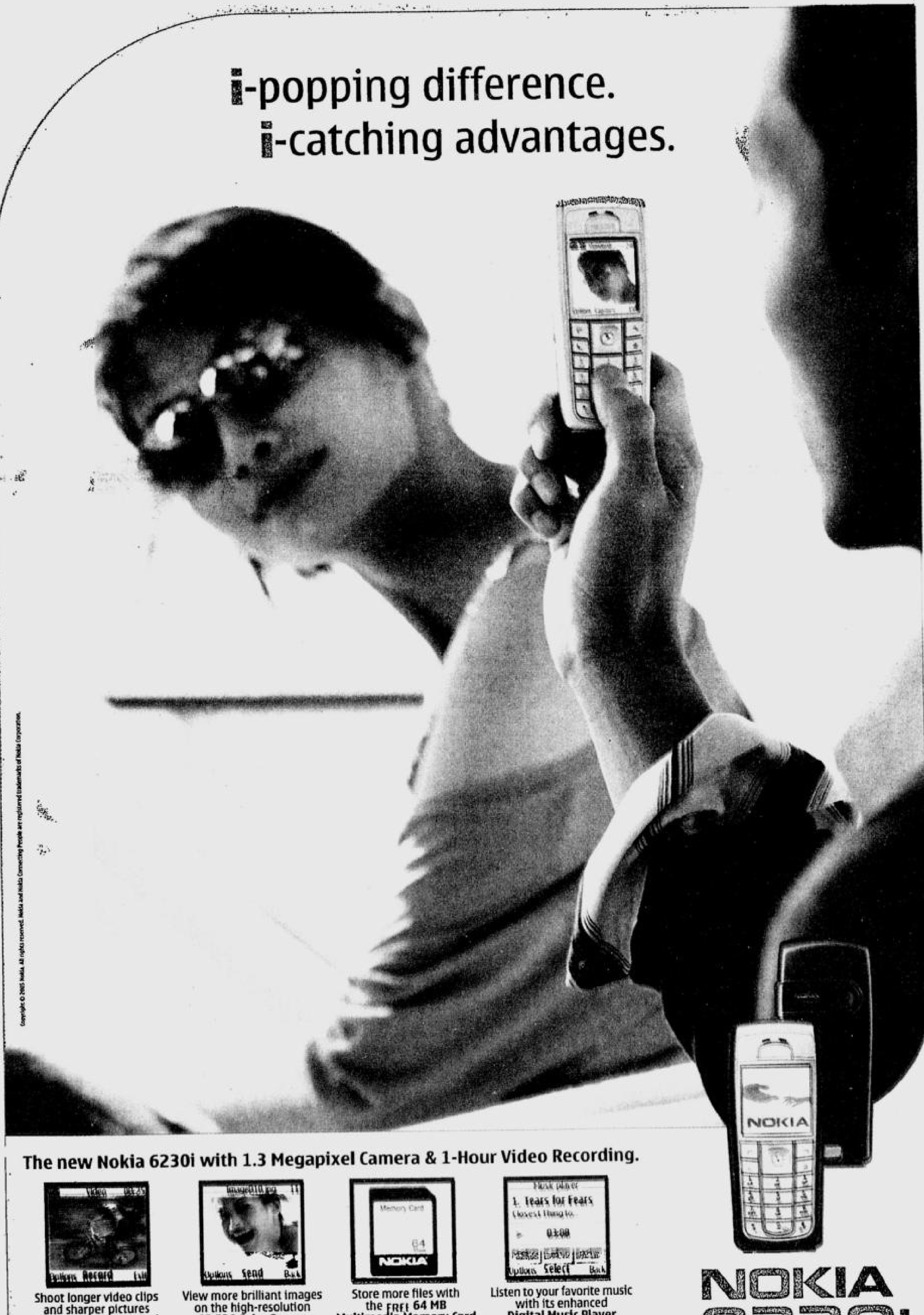
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# OPINION

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**EDITORIALS**

## Substitution

SEN. Miriam Defensor-Santiago made a lot of sense when she urged representatives of the major political parties to renounce their plans for reelection, but unfortunately, no one was listening. Or some were listening but were understandably not receptive to the idea.

Taguig Rep. Allan Peter Cayetano said that if all the leaders took up Santiago's challenge, no one would be left to run the country except the clergy. Sen. Edgardo Angara, chair of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, called her proposal "an extreme suggestion." But as they say in Spanish, "*Grandes malos, grandes remedios* (Serious problems, drastic remedies)."

Santiago's challenge may be "extreme," but we believe that what she wanted to say was that the government needed young blood and fresh faces with a new vision that would lift the nation from poverty, defeatism and inertia.

The old politicians, and especially the traditional politicians, have tried everything, but it seems that their best is not enough. If the country has not actually retrogressed, it has been stuck in a social and economic rut for the past 50 years. In the 1950s and early 1960s the Philippines was second only to Japan in terms of economic development in Asia. It has since been overtaken by South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. Now, Vietnam, which, only recently recovered from a devastating war, threatens to overtake us.

The Philippines has the material and human resources needed for rapid economic and social development. The problem is the lack of enlightened, patriotic and forward-looking leadership. Most of our leaders have been motivated by self-interest and self-aggrandizement, and not by visions of making the country grow and improving the lot of the common man. There is something terribly wrong with our political system that perpetuates this state of affairs. At every election, what Santiago calls "mindless voters" elect the same type of officials after entertainment-oriented campaigns during which serious issues are hardly discussed.

The hold of political dynasties and traditional politicians on the electoral system discourages idealistic young people who would like to serve their country from entering the political arena. Besides, politics is perceived as a dirty, corrupt system that co-opts young, idealistic people the moment they join government.

We endorse Santiago's idea that there should be a major change in our political leadership. But we will not go to the extreme and say everybody in the present crop of political leaders should not seek reelection. Surely, there are those who have managed to retain their idealism and youthful vision in the midst of a corrupt and corrupting system. The nation could still use their talents.

Perhaps, as in basketball, we should call for a time out and for the substitution of most of the players on the court. There have been a lot of fumbles, fouls, miscues and missed opportunities in shooting for the goal. It's time for the old players to bow out gracefully and to bring new, fresh faces into the game.

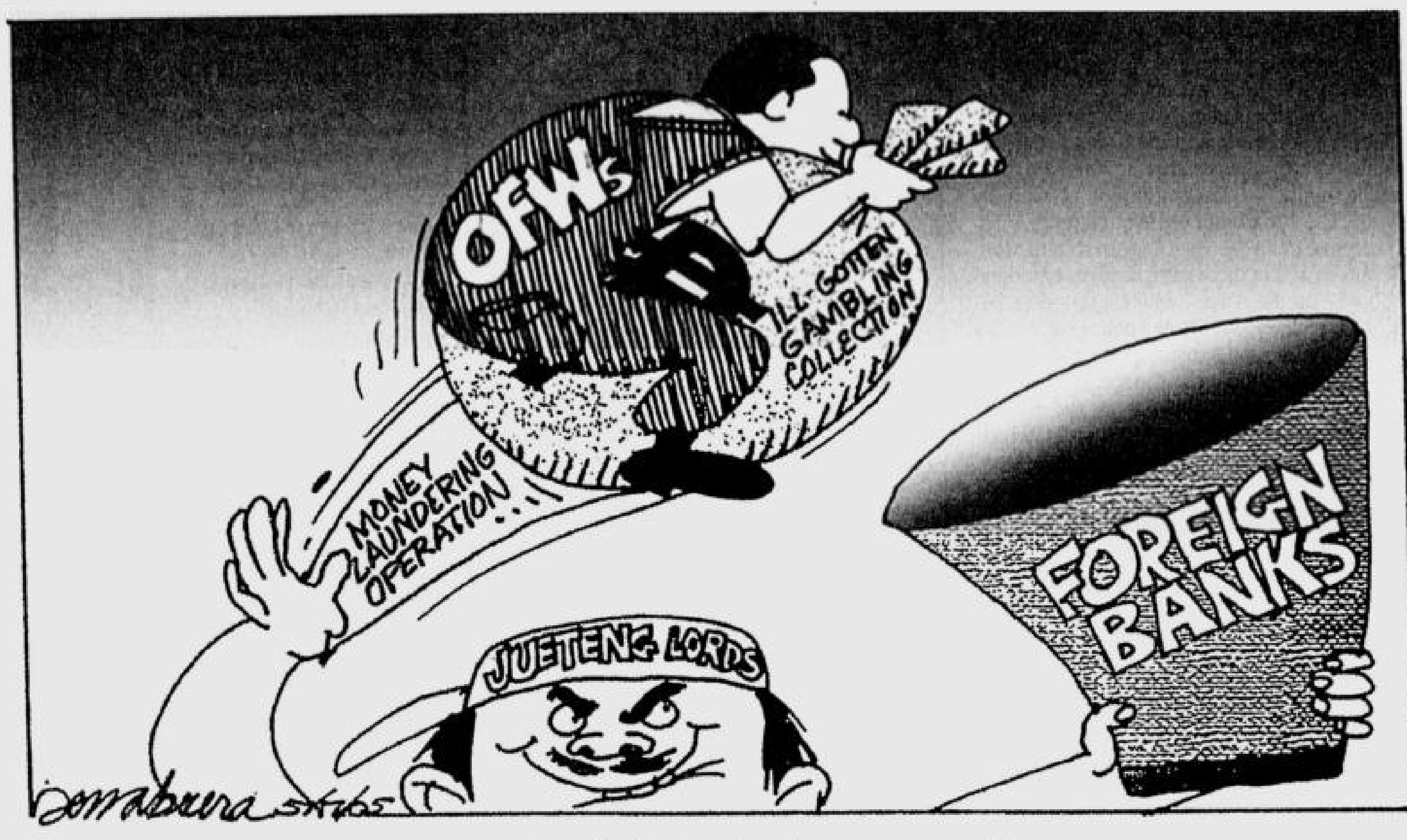
## Scientists in politics

IT IS encouraging to note that the country's scientists have decided to enter the complex world of politics, starting with a bid for seats in the House of Representatives.

A group of scientists headed by former Science Undersecretary Florentino Tesoro has organized a party-list group called Agham and will field candidates in the 2007 election. These scientists deserve not only our encouragement but also our support.

Congress is dominated by lawyers, businessmen and other professionals but it has very few scientists. Scientists in Congress could draw up programs to help solve the nation's problems. It's time we thought of scientific and technological solutions to some problems such as the development of indigenous and non-traditional sources of energy, the mitigation of the effects of typhoons and the development of native materials to substitute for imported ones used in the manufacturing industry.

Scientists in Congress could also help campaign for a bigger budget for science and technology. The leading developed nations today, such as the United States, Germany and Japan, were able to achieve fast economic growth because of their use of science, technology and research. With some scientists in Congress, the Philippines in the near future could follow in the footsteps of these nations.



## Canceled birthday parties

**VIEWPOINT**

*Juan L. Mercado*

OUR most fractured human right is what many neighboring countries take for granted, namely, the right to celebrate one's first birthday.

In this "strong republic," 29 out of every 1,000 kids never make it to their first birthday. In the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, the death rate is 42.

This is an improvement over the 50-plus deaths three decades back. But more could have seen their first birthdays if we all did better by them.

Look at next-door Malaysia. Infant mortality rates there are down to 8. In Singapore, it is 3. The dry-as-dust statistics underscore the fact that these are preventable deaths.

Herod's "Slaughter of the Innocents" is replayed here daily and taken for granted. You don't come across the seething fury of Nobel Laureate and Holocaust survivor Elie Weisel in his prayer at the Auschwitz death camp rites: "God of forgiveness, do not forgive the murderers of ...children here."

Many of infants today are handed "life's short straws." They're borne by ill-fed mothers in job-short families. Iron deficiency anemia afflicts 44 out of every 100 mothers, the 6th National Nutrition Survey found.

Among infants less than a year old, anemia persists at 1998 levels. These renders pregnant women—and infants in their wombs—vulnerable.

Both during pregnancy and delivery, medical care for the poor is short. Out of every 100 births here, 58 had skilled health personnel present. Sounds impressive—until you find that in Thailand, they are present in 99 out of every 100 births.

Far too much of tax money is swiped. The Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism's Avigail Olarte and Yvonne Chua report that 10 to 70 percent of funds for medicines in public clinics end up as kickbacks.

Thus, too many of the kids succumb. Their deaths are the real cost of graft. There's no outcry because their shrouds are mostly in city slum hovels or farm shacks—and out of sight.

Like infants cut down by Herod's sword, their deaths diminish us all. "A cry was heard at Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation /Rachel bewailing her children, no comfort for her, for they are no more."

But there are positive initiatives tamping down the number of victims. Business firms and government, for instance, beat back the threat of iodine deficiency.

"In the 1990s, nine out of every 10 women in the Mountain Province were necklaced with goiter due to lack of iodine. And half the Cordilleras were affected," I recalled in an earlier column. But government and the private sector sustained a campaign to implement the "Asin Law" (RA 8976) with iodized salt.

"It is now documented that the Philippines has solved (this) public health problem, although pockets of deficiencies still exist," the National Nutrition survey said. It's not possible to tell how many thousands of school children were saved from stunting, deaf-muteness or cretinism.

But "this is not the end," to borrow from Winston Churchill's address on the North African victory. "It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

There's more hard slogging ahead. The Food Nutrition Research Institute reckons the number of underweight pre-school children at 3.18 million, roughly equivalent to the population of the whole province of Cebu. Stunted or wasted children are estimated at 2.49 million.

Worldwide, food enrichment has proven to be the most effective way to close shortfalls in vital nutrients, as I wrote in my March 24 column, "A spoonful of sugar."

In Thailand, 80 percent of noodles are supplemented with Vitamin A, iodine and iron. China fortifies its soy sauce. And IR681440 is packed with zinc, Vitamin A, etc. The US used iodized salt in the 1920s to cope with its problem of iodine deficiencies.

Only deeds will disband those burial squads for our infants. That calls for implementing the Food Fortification Act better. Here the record is mixed.

Major millers now enrich flour with Vitamin A. Fortified Minola cooking oil is marketed nationwide. Some 30 cooking oil refineries are slowly falling into line. First Sugar Corp. packages and sells Vitamin A-fortified sugar, setting an example for a turtle-paced industry.

National Food Authority (NFA) rice is fortified with iron. Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul del Mar has set aside P1.49 million from his pork barrel for 10 public schools to provide fortified *pan de sal* for students.

But it's always at the local level that government action can be most effective. Thus, scientists think the most promising initiative these days can be found in Marikina City.

The city council of this national shoe capital wrote into its local law books Ordinance No. 143. Authored by Councilor Fabian Cadiz, a doctor, the Marikina City Food Fortification Code now governs what goes in the city's food stores and markets.

And the kids are getting a break. Approved with the backing of staple wholesalers and retailers in the Marikina Public Market, the code gives local teeth to what the national law prescribes.

The Marikina initiative seems to be catching the attention of local councils equally concerned with the plight of their kids. Davao is leading the pack. Councils in Carmen, Bansalan and Hagonoy in Davao del Sur have whipped up their versions to tighten food fortification mechanisms.

The efforts are overdue. "These are people of the broken plough who bear the face of hunger for whom it is almost too late," noted the late Food and Agriculture Organization regional representative, Ubaidullah Khan.

## Sheriff of Nottingham

**THERE'S THE RUB**

*Conrado de Quiros*

AQUILINO Pimentel has a point. The Constitution is clear, he says. The President may have the authority to raise (or lower) tariff and customs duties, but the President may not have the power to raise (or lower) taxes. Those are two different things. Raising (or lowering taxes) is the sole province of the legislature, it may not be the province of the executive. The legislature may not pass on that power to the President.

Which was what Congress did when it gave GMA the power to raise the value-added tax from 10 to 12 percent next year under certain circumstances, namely, if the national government deficit exceeds 1.5 percent of GDP or if the VAT collection exceeds 2.8 percent of GDP. As everyone knows, Congress doesn't want to be associated with a move to make the citizens' lives more miserable, and would rather lay the blame squarely on GMA's doormat, which is now wearing very thin. Well, the Constitution expressly forbids it.

But the constitutionality of the current VAT bill may be the least of its worries. I myself am astounded that Malacañang should be so damnably earnest in raising taxes at this very moment. Indeed, I am astounded that the BIR should be so inexorable in running after tax cheats at this very moment, though for reasons only its officials can explain, those tax cheats seem to consist of movie stars rather than big corporations. The reason I am astounded by it is simply this: Nowhere than this very moment is there a stark contrast between the abundance of bureaucratic effort to find ways to force us to cough up more taxes and the utter absence of any indication those taxes are coming back to us in roads, bridges and peace and order.

That is a point that needs to be stressed again and again. Government's right to collect taxes is not absolute, it is conditional. It is premised on the demonstrable use of those taxes to enrich the nation and not a few individuals. The American colonials who revolted against the British crown put it succinctly: No taxation without representation. You may not be taxed unless you get to say how those taxes are spent. Needless to say, you do not get to say how those taxes are spent when they are stolen right before your eyes.

A friend of mine sent me this list of items to show the extent to which the current government has failed to give us back our taxes. Under GMA, we have:

(1) Become the most dangerous place in the world for journalists, worse even than Iraq; (2) Become the second most corrupt country in the world, and the No. 1 in Asia; (3) Reached the highest level of public debt (P4.08 trillion) and the biggest amount of foreign borrowing (more than Corazon Aquino, Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada combined); (4) Become the new shabu manufacturing center of Asia; (5) Achieved the highest unemployment rate (13.9 percent or five million unemployed) and the highest underemployment rate, including the collapse of the garment industry; (6) Had the most expensive and fraudulent elections; (7) Had the biggest number of poor, from 32 percent under President Erap to 47 percent under GMA; (8) Had the highest price of oil products ever (P33 per liter); (9) Had the highest dollar-peso exchange rate (P56 to $1); (10) Had the biggest number of casinos and gambling establishments.

I just took 10 out of a list of 25 items. Some of the assertions here are controversial, others not so. The latter are those made by foreign groups which have no external agenda, or which are past being bribed to see things differently. The judgment about the country having become the most dangerous place for journalists was made by the Committee for the Protection of Journalists and Reporters Without Borders. Shortly after the two groups announced the fact, a couple more Filipino journalists were shot and killed.

As to the judgment about the extent of corruption in this country, that was made by the World Economic Forum and the Asian Development Bank. You argue that the Philippines is not the first or second most corrupt country in Asia and the world but only the third or fourth, that is still a monumental failure of governance. That is still a clear case of taxation without representation. Or never mind the fancy phrase, that is still extortion, no more and no less than the one the Sheriff of Nottingham practiced on not-so-merry old England.

Which brings us back to why Malacañang and the BIR should make a very loud and strident push to make citizens pay through their teeth in taxes at this time. The real question is not whether it is constitutional or not for Congress to pass on the task of legislating taxes to the President, it is whether it is legal and moral for the President to suck us dry without feeling any need to use our hard-earned money to better our lives.

The senators and congressmen miss the point entirely. What they should be discussing to a level of scrupulous detail is not under what conditions the President may be free to raise the VAT to a certain percentage. What they should be taxing their brains over—the one thing that rarely gets to be taxed in this country—are the specific conditions under which the taxpayer may pay only so much or not at all from his income. I will applaud Congress only when it comes up with a compromise bill that says the citizens may have the power to lower VAT from 10 percent to 3 percent or abrogate it completely until such time as government catches the murderers of journalists or checks rampant pillage and improves its standing in the eyes of the world.

Otherwise, all that discussion about VAT is just an engraved invitation for a Robin Hood to appear. I was tempted to say in our own Sherwood Forest, but there is Mike Defensor to assure there won't be any forest left in this country.

# Pinoy fishermen rescued SA town

**POLITICAL TIDBITS**

*Belinda Olivares-Cunanan*

KALK BAY, South Africa—In this coastal town on the "Cape Peninsula" in the western part of South Africa are quite a number of people with brown skin and family names that sound very Filipino. Names like Pastor, Flores, Hilario, Macaranas, Almonte, Quimpo, Abelgas, De la Cruz, Pepino, Nadal, Santiago, Palma, Almacen, Aguilar, Legarda, Fernandez, Manuel, Pascual, Clemente, Buenaventura, Cita, Padua, Lopez and Gomez. These are the descendants of early Filipinos who settled here nearly 150 years ago and came to be known as "Manillas." Today many of these Pinoy descendants want to be able to trace their roots in the Philippines and visit it, pretty much the way the Pastor family here was able to trace its origins to Palompon, Leyte, and had a grand clan reunion there. But a link-up spanning three generations has not been easy for most of them here.

* * *

**Many of these family names are traceable to certain provinces, such as the Quimpos of Aklan and the Macaranases of Pangasinan. I told the Pinoy descendants here that a Buenaventura heads the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas; that a prominent Almonte (retired Brig. Gen. Jose Almonte) was once national security adviser to President Fidel V. Ramos and another Almonte (Dr. Josefina Almonte) heads the UP-PGH department of surgery. Perhaps it could be a project of Tourism Secretary Ace Durano and the Commission on Overseas Filipinos headed by Dante Ang to help these South African families trace their Filipino roots. At the very least it would be a boon to tourism back home.**

* * *

Over lunch near Kalk Bay with the honorary consul-general of the Philippines to South Africa, based in Cape Town, former Ambassador to Taiwan Alan Harvey, and his wife, Ina, he told us the story of how the Filipinos rescued that town, as gleaned from the book, "Kalk Bay, A Place of Character," by Michael Walker. In the mid-1800s, supplies were delivered to Kalk Bay from Cape Town by ox wagons and taken across to the ships anchored in nearby Simon's Bay en route to America or Europe from the East. After the British occupation of 1795, Kalk Bay fell, albeit temporarily, into decline, but the boom in the whaling industry in the early 1800s soon put it back on its feet. The whaling boom proved short-lived, but before the place could decline into a backwater, another "blessing" came with the arrival of the Filipino fishermen. Together with the emancipated slaves from Batavia and Java in what was to become Indonesia, the skilled Filipino fishermen played a major role in establishing the fishing industry in Kalk Bay, where there was an abundance of fish. Thus was ensured its continued existence.

* * *

**As related by Walker, a popular theory about how the Filipino fishermen reached Kalk Bay has it that a ship from the Philippines was wrecked near Cape Point circa 1860 and the crew rested at Kalk Bay. They found it so attractive and the sea filled with fish that they decided to stay.**

**However, Walker opines that most of the Filipinos were ship deserters as well as those who fled in the aftermath of the surge of nationalist sentiment following the Cavite mutiny of 1872. This event saw many executions, including those of Filipino priests Gomez, Burgos and Zamora. home.**

* * *

One of the earliest settlers who, by virtue of his strong personality and strong patriotism, became the Pinoy head honcho was Felix Florez, a deserter from a US South Confederate ship which called at Cape Town in August 1873. A native of Panay who was of Spanish and Filipino ancestry, Florez was said to have been determined to build up the Pinoy community. He put up a shop and supplied the Filipinos whom he had enticed to settle there with fishing gear and quarters. Florez was "greatly respected and feared" and was a source of security for his compatriots, "be they ship deserters or political refugees." A daughter, Maria Florence Florez, was born to him and his wife around 1870.

* * *

**News of the rising colony in Kalk Bay reached Manila and spurred an increase in the number of families seeking to flee the political turbulence in the native land between 1874 and 1876. They were boosted by the arrival of many emancipated slaves from Indonesia who could fish with them. Thus instead of declining, Kalk Bay grew.**

**Walker says the Filipinos who settled here were Catholics. In 1856 Sir George Grey, the governor of the Cape colony, granted them some land in St. James on which to build their church.**

**But the life of the Filipino fishermen and the generation that followed was not easy despite the abundance of fish. Their average life span was between 40 and 50 years. As Walker put it, "It was a life where back sprains, ruptures, heart and muscular ailments were commonplace. Skippers sometimes had great difficulty in raising crew, when, over and above these ailments, cold days at sea brought flu and fever in the winter months." Despite their reputation for being "the finest rock fishermen in the Cape Colony," their wages were pitifully low and they had to make their wives work as domestics in the houses and hotels and in the wash houses to boost the family income.**

* * *

Good and bad habits were observed in the Filipinos of yore, which are reminiscent of those of present-day Pinoys. Walker noted that the skipper of the boat was regarded by the crew as the "master of all" and his word was law. Once ashore, there was a "great divide" between him and the crew, not only in their place of residence but also in their social behavior. The skippers drank at the bar of the Charles King's Hotel, while the crew drank at the bar of the Masonic Hotel, "a rather run-down 'Wild West' set-up." It was noted that drinking was a problem at Kalk Bay. Walker observed that "there must have been many a problem at home when the returning crew member arrived intoxicated, having squandered his meagre earnings on alcohol."

# A name and an obligation

**AT LARGE**

*Rina Jimenez-David*

HOW much is one's name worth? For Alfonso Yuchengco, former ambassador and tycoon, the measure has just been set at P250 million. This is the amount taken from what he says are his "personal" funds that he turned over Friday to Pacific Plans Inc., the troubled subsidiary that has been relegated to the fringes of the vast empire that is the Yuchengco Group of Companies.

"That's not a small amount," Yuchengco needlessly points out. As he remarked during the turnover, he had "cried for three nights" before the day he was to hand over the check to Ernesto Garcia, president of PPI. "And when I come home tonight, I will cry some more," he added.

A personal fortune that can withstand leakage of P250 million without too much shrinkage takes a lot of work to build, and as Yuchengco tells it, he had indeed worked very hard for his millions. "You can ask my employees, I work very hard. I work even on Saturdays, and when I was younger, you could find me in the office even on Sundays."

But, he emphasizes, much as he would miss the P250 million, and even if he claims not to have "any legal obligation" to infuse PPI's working capital with his own money, Yuchengco says protecting his and his family's reputation is even more important. Though he made the decision on his own, the former ambassador says all his children "agreed with it and support me on this."

Perhaps a brush with mortality has something to do with Yuchengco's sanguine attitude. Still recovering from a quintuple heart by-pass last March, Yuchengco jokes that "in the last 20 years, I've been negotiating with St. Peter. I asked if I could bring my money with me, and so far, I have received no answer."

* * *

**BUT if you ask the education-plan holders of PPI, especially the more agitated clients who have banded themselves into the Parents Enabling Parents (a play on the initials on of Pacific Education Plans) Coalition, they know exactly where (or to whom) Yuchengco can leave his wealth. In their view, even if the Yuchengcos stand to lose their entire fortune, it is still the family's responsibility to meet their obligations to the plan-holders, to whom Pacific Plans had promised that it would pay for the education of their children when their plans matured.**

**Last Friday, the PEP Coalition formally filed their opposition in the Makati Regional Trial Court to PPI's petition for rehabilitation, which would allow it to hold off from paying maturing "open-ended" educational plans while it figures out an acceptable compromise with the plan holders. In a letter last April, the company proposed to replace all open-ended plans with fixed-value plans that would carry "roughly" 7 percent annual return up to 2010. On that year, when the government (Napocor) bonds to which the plans are tied mature, payments will be made on the plans. "No funds would be released until then," said Garcia.**

* * *

"THIS is a bad precedent for other companies," remarks Philip Piccio, president of the PEP Coalition. "We want the corporation to stand up to its obligations. We appeal to the regulating body, the SEC, to exercise its duty to penalize erring corporations and protect the public. We want the secretary of finance to realize the public sector impact of this problem and address it. We also ask the entire pre-need industry to step in and do something about this problem in their 'family.'"

Piccio says one of the sources of trouble for the pre-need industry are the many "legal gray areas" around their products. "What is a pre-need education plan? Is it insurance? Is it securities?" To finally nail down the legal vagaries, Piccio said they have been talking to legislators on the crafting of a bill which would finally define pre-need products and establish more stringent regulations.

As for Yuchengco's "personal donation" of P250 million to PPI, Piccio bristles that "they even want us to be grateful!" when it has been Yuchengco's or his company's obligation all the while to infuse PPI with enough cash to meet its obligations.

Other members of the coalition relate that soon after they received the letters informing them of PPI's petition for rehabilitation, they made an appointment with Yuchengco so they could hand him a letter asking him to intercede in their behalf. "But when we got to his office, no one came out to meet us. Not even a secretary. Instead, we were met by a security guard who simply received the letter. We never heard from him again."

* * *

**THE WAY Yuchengco sums up the problem with PPI, the viability of the business was doomed in 1990 when the Education Act was amended, lifting the "cap" on tuition rates and allowing schools to raise tuition indiscriminately. The monetary crisis of 1997 didn't help, either.**

**But it seems puzzling why it has taken PPI and its corporate parent some 15 years to address this crisis, when the business of insurance, it seems to me, is precisely to assess risk and reduce liabilities, including that of their customers.**

**In the meantime, according to the grapevine, not even the P250 million from Yuchengco, which would boost PPI's assets to more than P600 million, would be enough to meet its obligations, namely, the tuition of some 16,000 scholars for the first semester of school year 2005-2006. When I asked what would happen to PPI scholars currently in, say, third year college, Yuchengco remained noncommittal.**

**To PPI's credit, it has at least accessed the legal system before taking unilateral action to address its capital hemorrhage. It has therefore placed its financial records as part of public record. "They can look through all our books and papers. I have nothing to apologize for our investment performance and our track record," declares Yuchengco.**

# Food as culture (2)

**SENSE AND SENSIBILITY**

*Bambi L. Harper*

THERE'S something wrong but don't ask me what it is because I can't put my finger on it, but those of us who're lucky enough to have seen a Citem exhibit or the factories in Mactan's export zone are aware that we have marvelous products that the majority of Filipinos are not aware of. Most of us think that "*sa ilalim ng tulay*" (in Quiapo) is as far as we've developed and it's a shame because there are designers out there creating fabulous accessories that match anything you can pick up at Bergdorf or Sak's and, to all intents and purposes, these could readily be from Avatar Accessories of Cebu.

Which is why Monique Toda's idea of celebrating Cebu at the New World Renaissance Hotel is such a super idea. Another Monique, this time surnamed Lhuillier, has her couture gowns (courtesy of her mom, Amparito) on display at the lobby. Now devotees of Hello or Hola or People's Magazine and certainly W know that Monique L designed the wedding gowns of Britney Spears and Christine Baumgartner (Mrs. Kevin Costner to you). She's described as young Hollywood's hottest designer and her clothes are worn by Angelina Jolie, Holly Hunter, Sarah Jessica Parker, Debra Messing and Jennifer Connelly, just to name-drop a bit.

It's not that the Filipino can, but he already has. Witness Kenneth Cobonpue whose mellifluous name flows off Cebuanos' lips like honey and the pride in this young man's achievements is virtually tangible. He has received recognition from Japan for five of his designs, and from Singapore for his Croissant sofa. He has appeared on European television and international magazines, and several of his designs were selected for the International Design Yearbook 2004. Foreigners at the New World Hotel have actually stopped and asked if the bed on display in the lobby is for sale. What Cobonpue has done is integrate local organic material with hand-made production techniques.

It looks like if we want to compete globally, we must forget about the cheap labor bit (because it isn't) and go for the high-end products, the way Florence has done.

You may also be curious enough to check out another Cebu product found in the top stores of Paris, which uses fish skin, in particular the stingray or shagreen combining it with hard woods, bones and pal wood. The tradition apparently is an old Asian one, having started in Japan in the 17th century where shagreen was used as armor and sword hilt of the Samurai and made in Kyoto or Nagasaki, with the skin coming from Vietnam and Siam. In the 18th century, it was introduced in Europe and Louie XIV, Marie Antoinette and Napoleon III became its most famous collectors.

Because of the expensive hand-making techniques employed, the manufacturing has now shifted to Asia, especially Cebu. There is a very strong Art Deco feel to the designs, simple and uncluttered, an amalgam of the traditional and the unexpected.

Other highlights are elegant and dressy bags of Joanna Lhuillier that set you back $400 and the more affordable trendy ones of Iris Arcenas which are also exported abroad.

Then there's the food at the coffee shop that focuses on Cebuano cuisine, including grilled lobster and the famous Cebu *lechon*.

Today being Tuesday, the Hotel InterContinental opens its Fiesta Pampangueña in celebration of Heritage Month, with guest chefs from PSJ Everybody's Café in San Fernando, Pampanga. The restaurant started out as a two-table operation and has now expanded to a 60-table dining area, with a function room for 200 guests and a verandah that can accommodate another 150. Started by the late Benito and Carmen Santos, it is now run by their daughter, Pette Jorolan. Talk about success stories!

As I was saying earlier, having Claude Tayag, chef, travel and food writer from Pampanga, seated next to you at table truly expands your knowledge, whether of history or of food. However, I have to admit I haven't tried the *bayawak* egg yet which some have told me resembles toothpaste. But I've had *batute* (pork-stuffed frog), which for some reason a lot of people don't enjoy. At the press launch organized by the ever glamorous and energetic InterCon PR, Jenny Peña, I ended up asking for *pan de sal* for my *murcon* which, according to Claude, was really *embutido*. Now, don't ask why the names got mixed up because nobody knows.

There's the usual staple of *sisig*, as only the Kapampangans make it, and the most exotic dish you'll encounter will be the crispy *hito* with *buro* and *mustasa*. That's catfish with fermented fresh shrimps and mustard leaves.

If you haven't had *tapang kalabaw* (carabeef), now's your chance. The fresh *paku* (fiddlehead fern) salad was excellent and so was the fresh *papaya lumpia*.

For the Kapampangans who haven't been home in a while and the rest of you who have a sweet tooth, there's *tocino del cielo* (can't remember now if they told me it has 6 or 12 egg yolks, but it's okay; turns out eggs are no longer bad for you), the *tibok-tibok* (*maja blanca* made with carabao's milk), the *turron saba* with *langka* and assorted Magalang sweets. No, there are not deep-fried crickets or *dumara*, the wild migratory birds from China. You may have to travel to San Fernando for that.

# Quarter-life twilight

**YOUNG BLOOD**

*Joben D.*

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.*

SOON I will be 30 years old. It's so near I can feel it under my skin. For the longest time, I have dreaded the thought, refused to acknowledge the creeping signs, and in my heart pretended that I am still, and always will be, 25.

Funny but I figured this to be my "ideal age"—with enough wisdom gained from the teenage years, some acquired "real world" experiences, a healthy dose of angst, while intrigued, nay intoxicated, with all the possibilities life has to offer. But then again, when I was 22 I was convinced that it was the "perfect age." I also said the same thing when I was a clueless 18-year-old. Now I'm finding it hard to take the notion of an ideal age seriously. Yet as I approach ground zero (read; age 30), I know that it's as far off any ideal age as could be.

Yes, age is just a number and everybody grows old. But it really grates to even think that I will no longer be demographically classified among the "twentysomething." I'm probably guilty of romanticizing it a bit, but being eased out of that bracket is something I am not fully prepared to accept.

First off, I can no longer use the same, lame excuses I have conveniently employed to make sense of my life. No longer can I rationalize my condition as symptoms of the so-called "quarter-life crisis" whenever I find myself asking why my life is not the way I envisioned it, why I'm not living a "charmed existence," why it hints at mediocrity. Or why many of my dreams remain unfulfilled.

"Quarter-life crisis," of course, is the fancy term made popular by Alexandra Robbins and Abby Wilner in their book of the same title. Basically the catchphrase refers to the collective (some say middle-class) angst, restlessness and identity crisis afflicting befuddled twentysomethings.

I never thought I'd say this now, but it does seems unseemly to use staple words like "angst," "alienation" and "anomie" in the course of a conversation. Finding solace in the same old songs, movies or books that guided me through my younger days and defined my existence feels redundant at times.

Call me a sucker for sentimental musings or even nostalgia, but turning 30 feels like the end of an era. I think it's more than the usual fear of growing old. It means crossing over to the next shore, reaching the point of no return. It's also a juncture where you need to look back and evaluate what you've done and what your life has become. Well, I am starting to look back now, and I'm not happy to see what my life has become—or where it's headed for that matter.

On the brink of turning 30, I find myself lost more than ever. It sounds like a real cliché, but that's the only fitting term to describe my condition. I find myself as confused, if not more so, than when I first ventured into the "real world." You can say that I am second-guessing my concept of self.

I'm in a job which no longer makes me happy, yet I stay put for practical considerations and some security blanket. I have wanted to move out, but getting a worse deal is always a risk. On top of that, I'm not sure what I really want to do at this point of my life.

Many of my friends have settled down, while I still don't have a family to call my own. I am single again, after maintaining a "bogus" relationship which I entered into to alleviate my loneliness. No, I don't think marriage is a solution, but it sure would feel nice to have an anchor and some sense of direction in life.

I don't have any savings or property to speak of. I haven't established the "right" networks to advance my so-called career. I can't claim to having done something truly worthy for our society either. All these standards by which societal norms judge success scare me, whether I accept them or not. I don't necessarily look at myself as a failure, but as I look back, I know I could have done many things better or differently. Well, as they say, hindsight is always 20/20.

The quarter-life supposedly happens between the time after college and before one hits 30. Except by some miraculous stroke of faith, my issues won't suddenly disappear overnight. What then? It may be hilarious in the movies or novels, but I can't see much humor in being 30 and still being in the throes of some inscrutable juvenile crisis. Does this qualify as post quarter-life crisis? Or is this an early onset of the more familiar midlife calamity?

Heck, I probably just need to lighten up a little and not take my life too seriously (which is easier said than done). I seem to have developed an unhealthy fixation with a concept which may not be real at all. Maybe it's the tedium at work. Or the ennui of being single. Or the weariness of residing in the metropolis for almost nine years now.

I have convinced myself that hope floats somewhere. Like mountain biking, for instance, which came to my life more than a year ago and has helped me smell the flowers again. I still love to write, to travel whenever I can, and I can still bang my head to good rock music. And as cheesy as it sounds, I haven't given up on finding true love.

Life is what actually happens while you wait for your ship to come. I admit to having a pathological obsession with organizing my life around planners, goals and objectives—and doing just that, planning, and not accomplishing much. Yet my life is probably not much different from the lives of the vast majority of youngish men and women who live similarly quiet lives of confusion and desperation. Some choose to shut up while others put up and do something about it and turn their lives around. Right now that is my personal holy grail: to do a 360.

Even as I write, I can't exactly figure whether I am still, in fact, part of the "young blood" generation. I feel old. A friend once told me I have an "old soul" (whatever that means). Right now I'm in that nebulous limbo between the young blood and the high blood, wedged somewhere in between the two generation's collective hopes and fears. Yet being either old or "generation Y" soul is not really a big deal for me anymore. As I approach the twilight of my quarter life, I can only aspire for one thing: I don't want a perfect soul because I know I can't have it. I'd much rather possess an indomitable spirit, a spirit which can never be broken in the face of adversity.

That may look like a goal that is not grounded in the real world, but I wouldn't have it any other way.

*Joben D., 29, works for a non-government organization and is currently finishing his master's degree at the University of the Philippines.*

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# Full public accounting of coco funds

THE RESIGNATION of Rolando Golez from the Coconut Industry Investment Fund, after being exposed of his lavish spending of coco levy funds, is an attempt to save face. The praises for Golez from members of the board of the United Coconut Planters Bank, who refused to be identified, implied their lack of delicadeza and a clear attempt to prematurely clear Golez of the accusations made by former PCGG (Presidential Commission on Good Government) Commissioner Haydee Yorac. Through his de facto spokespersons in the UCPB board, Golez had the temerity to claim that he was used as a sacrificial lamb for being on "top of the audit of the special accounts at UCPB of companies owned by Danding Cojuangco." (PDI, 5/10/05)

One of the board members who refused to be named was quoted as saying that Golez "was hoping to be cleared by the UCPB." Another said that Golez "voted for programs favoring the small coconut farmer," while another credited him for conceptualizing the direct copra marketing program. Given these praises for Golez, it is easy to believe that the UCPB investigation team will in no time exonerate Golez.

The claim of Golez that he was made a sacrificial lamb is pretentious and aims to divert the issue away from the lavish spending and perks that he himself admitted in public. Is he insinuating that Yorac is being used by Cojuangco to get back at him?

On the other hand, the direct copra marketing project might have added a few centavos to the income of coconut farmers in some areas where the project is said to be successful, but it will not free them from poverty. The fact is, there are areas, such as Bondoc Peninsula, where this program only strengthened further the hold of middlemen on copra trading to the detriment of small coco farmers. There are so many products that the farmers can make from his coconut, such as coco fiber, geo-textile and the like; but to be able to produce these, the farmers must "control," instead of sell, coconut.

We reiterate our position that the issue is not simply about lavish spending by officials of CIIF and other coco levy-funded companies. It is about the need to make an accounting of the levy money and to see if and how the coco farmers are benefiting from it. We, therefore, call on the government to make a full public accounting of the coconut levy funds.

**—MANUEL P. QUIAMBAO, president,**
**Peace Foundation Inc.,**
**Cubao, Quezon City**

**HUNGER** also stalks the families of rice producers.
MITCH MAURICIO

## Flawed rice policy and hunger

THE SOCIAL Weather Stations' March 2005 survey (published in the INQUIRER on April 15) showed that from 11.5 percent in December 2004, hunger rose to 13.4 percent in March 2005. The survey said 2.1 million families experienced hunger—that is, without having anything to eat at least once in the past three months—the highest ever hunger incidence in 20 years.

The Rice Watch and Action Network or R1, a coalition of non-government organizations concerned with the rice sector, is alarmed over the rising hunger incidence in the rural areas, especially as they mostly affect the families of farmers. Based on the SWS survey, hunger incidence is 14.3 percent in Mindanao, 13.7 percent in the Visayas, 13.7 percent in Luzon, and 7.7 percent in the National Capital Region.

The country could have avoided this worsening hunger situation had our government seriously put in place and implemented a coherent rice self-sufficiency program upholding the economic well-being of farmers and using sustainable agriculture as a cornerstone. The country's too much dependence on so much imports just aggravated the problem. I'm talking about the wrong policies in agriculture that are being implemented by the government.

The government should learn from a 1998 experience, when the country fell into a fiscal crisis. Instead, the government proceeded to import a record high of 1.6 million metric tons of rice this year. Where will we get the dollars to finance this importation which in the past averaged a mere half of that volume?

We laud the government's decision to maintain the quantitative restrictions on rice importation and to push for their extension for another seven years in the WTO negotiations. But the extension would provide just a breathing space.

How the government will implement its policies and put priority on improving the lot of farmers so that this breathing space will not be squandered seven years hence is worth watching.

The government should not deprive farmers of access to seeds by extending them credit and crop insurance only when they use seeds of hybrid rice and high-response varieties, but not when they use traditional or farmer-developed seeds.

The government, particularly the National Food Authority, should remain active in rice trade, particularly at the farmgate to influence palay prices.

**—JESSICA REYES-CANTOS,**
**R1 convenor,**
**c/o Action for Economic Reforms,**
**Matulungin Street,**
**Barangay Central District,**
**Quezon City**

## No reaction to Marcos' speech

I AM issuing this disclaimer to strongly reject a letter that appeared in the Opinion Section of May 9 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, purportedly coming from me. I have not released or caused the release by my office of any letter in reaction to a speech of Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos regarding Mr. Stanley Ho. I did not feel alluded to as the "influential Chinese-Filipino businessman and former ambassador" mentioned by Representative Marcos in her speech and saw no need to issue a reaction.

The same purported letter from me has come out in two other publications, to which I had also sent disclaimers. Its release is part of a concerted effort by a lawyer who has been dismissed from my company for cause to discredit my name and my person.

**—ANTONIO L. CABANGON CHUA,**
**4/F Dominga Bldg.,**
**2113 Chino Roces Ave.,**
**cor. Dela Rosa St., Makati City**

## Illegitimate debts

KUDOS to the INQUIRER for featuring on its front page (PDI, 4/ 21/05) the speech of Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Reynato Puno at the recent IBP 10th National Convention in Baguio City.

Justice Puno quotes an economist of the University of Cambridge: "There are debts which should be considered illegitimate and therefore should not be paid."

We have known all along that we have been paying tons of money for the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, the "Mother of All White Elephants," as the INQUIRER editorial (PDI, 4/23/05) calls it, but thanks to Justice Puno for citing the specific amount of $170,000 or around P9.35 million a day, or P3.4 billion a year that our government pays for this monumental folly.

The amount, if used to construct low-cost houses, could be used to build 93 units per day, or almost 34,000 units per year. If used for the milk-feeding of malnourished schoolchildren (which our club does for 200 children in Toro Hills, Quezon City every school day at a cost of P1,000 per child per year—since we feed fresh carabao milk to the children), the P3.4 billion a year could provide 3.4 million schoolchildren with fresh carabao milk every school day for one year!

Let's just hope the bureaucrats in high places in government will realize the wisdom of Justice Puno's words, and do something that will really help alleviate poverty in our country, such as refusing to pay illegitimate debts like the BNPP loans.

Thank you, Justice Puno, and thank you, INQUIRER!

**—EFREN M. YAMBOT,**
**Rotary Club of New Manila East,**
**District 3780, 20 Mt. Sajama,**
**Filinvest I, Quezon City**

## GMA should lead by example

IN REFERENCE to the INQUIRER editorial titled "Ethically challenged" (PDI, 5/10/05), I'm boiling mad over the deep-rooted insensitivity of many government officials to the plight of ordinary Filipinos. The likes of Winston Garcia of the Government Service Insurance System, Sergio Apostol, who was chair of the Philippine National Oil Co., Rolando Golez of the Coconut Industry Investment Fund and top officials of the Social Security System are indeed a breed of Filipino managers who can afford to enjoy extravagant lifestyles at the expense of impoverished Filipinos without remorse. These officials are misplaced in government positions; they should repay all the unconscionable, exorbitant salaries and allowances they ripped off from the overburdened ordinary Filipino taxpayers; and they should be prosecuted to the end. The President, as head of the government, has the moral and legal authority to get rid of these people outright, or the people will. Better still, the President should lead by example.

**—RODRIGO FABREO JR.,**
**bonesurgeon87@yahoo.com**

## Politics in the family

UNIVERSITY of Hawaii professor Belinda Aquino's learned response to the politics of life and death in the United States (PDI, 4/25/05) begs the obvious question: Why are politicians involved in the first place?

Terri Schiavo's fate, for example, was a family decision from the start. But "family" here and "family" in America mean two different things entirely.

For example, Schiavo's parents argued (incorrectly) that her husband had no "right" to decide whether their daughter lived or died.

After all, her husband was living with another woman, anxious to get on with a life that included, not least, regular sex with a functioning partner anxious, in turn, to legitimize her status.

Schiavo's husband, on the other hand, argued (correctly) that it was his "right" alone to decide his wife's fate, based on a wish shared between them 15 years earlier that nobody could prove, disprove or, above all, overrule. Not even the president, Congress and the Supreme Court of the United States.

In the United States, and for all practical (and most legal) purposes, "family" is decided at the altar. A fact of life that leaves American parents on the outside looking in and, in many cases, out of the picture completely. A uniquely American way of looking at "family" that evolved more by default than design—going back to a time in US history when husbands and wives moved west by the millions, never to return to their roots back East.

To Filipinos, on the other hand, overseas Filipino workers in particular, home and family are where the parents are, till death. A marriage contract here changes nothing, whereas in the United States it changes everything.

In the Philippines, the Terri Schiavo case would have ended much differently, in my opinion.

For her husband, a simple annulment and then marriage to the other woman. For Terri Schiavo's parents, their living, breathing daughter, back home where she belongs.

In the United States, on the other hand, the inevitability of Schiavo's fate was never anybody's business but her husband's. I wonder what future marriage partners and parents in Professor Aquino's classes would have to say about that, both American and Filipino like herself.

**—ELLIOTT ANDERSON,**
**P.O. Box 2796, Ozamiz City 7200**

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### More than 90 journalists have been killed in the Philippines since 1986. The Committee to Protect Journalists has identified the Philippines as the "most murderous country for journalists," followed by Iraq, Colombia, Bangladesh and Russia. What should be done to stop the killings?

journalists are mostly killed or ordered to be killed by guilty people they write about so that means d police should do their work.
**—fritz emmanuel gatchalian, 15,** *taguig*

Kakambal Na NG PaNGANIB ANG tunay Na Naglilingkod at walang kinikilingan. Mabuhay po kayo at ingat na lang sa tulad ninyong tunay na boses ng mamamayan.
**—LOUIE LACHICA, 32,** *Manila*

press pipol should be given protection by the government so as to ensure their safety.
**—Mary Joyce DAYANAN, 18,** *DUMAGUETE city*

wag iboto ang ang mga corupt at mga bobo na opisyal kse pag natatamaan sila ng mga journalists, eh gumagawa sila ng ikapapahamak nila, pinpa-patay!
**—tonet castro, 27,** *cebu*

CONDEMN the KILLINGS, PROSECUTE the KILLERS, LEGISLATE and IMPLEMENT LAWS that would really PROTECT Media persons
**—Joseph Lawrence P. Garcia, 30,** *Davao City*

1st, why are they killing d journalists? 2nd, who are killing them?
**—alice c. villamayor,** *binangonan, rizal*

Law en4cement agencies shud double their efforts n show criminals n would b criminals dey wont get away with it.
**—Rizalde Cabrera, 39,** *Olongapo City*

its a chain reaction, stop corruption, no exposition, then there will be no execution.
**—allen babaran, 26,** *echague, isabela*

The main reason why they get shot is they either use the media extort money or they are being too dumb brave without thinking of the risks..
**—John Chua, 37,** *Cebu*

the rule of law must be implemented properly and the law enforcer must be more vigilant against these killings.
**—jeffrey dumanjog, 19,** *cotabato*

writing cOmments is a dangerOus jOb so as a jOurnalist, one shOuld be careful of wat one writes cOz ul never know..
**—Imee Martinez, 38,** *Davao City*

lahat ba ng di-makontrol e, dapat i-legalize?

i think dat jOurnalsts shOuld nOt only rely on cOmittees dat wOuld prOtect them, but also rely on themselves, too. I, tOo, love 2 write.
**—isoy Ho, 17,** *Davao City*

ARM the JOURNALISTS, FIGHT FIRE with fire.
**—Errol Abrew, 50,** *CABA, La Union*

kill ol d polis, abolisH d judisiary. no more investigasn, no more krisis, no more crimes..
**—vic baap, jr., 47,** *e. samar*

Journalists shud be told to stop their extortionist practices so dat dey wil nt b exposed 2 d danger of being killed
**—Soren Ejercito, 18,** *Quezon City*

simple lang. ptayin dn ang mga GANID AT BULOK N MGA PULITIKO! dahil sa bawat pagkitil ng buhay ng mga journalists ay isang pulitiko!!!
**—tes obana, 24,** *polangui*

The state shld pass a law requiring journalists to compulsary wear a bullet proof vest, and car and wid armed security.
**—gerry singson,** *vigan city*

record each journalist attack or hard comment per person-date, time, name, issue n stake. Submit records to the authorities.
**—gualberto chan, 45,** *santa rosa city*

Journalists should be prevented from subjecting themselves to danger unless they come with a guard or protector.
**—Soren Ejercito, 18,** *Quezon City*

Let dem wear bullet proof vest at all times. 8s hard 2 stop d killings coz majority of pinoys dont follow laws!
**—ahmad derogongan, 28,** *san juan*

investigate on d killings 2 see motives or patterns, and find the culprits ASAP!
**—Ronald morfe, 27,** *qc*

They're being killed for exposing corruption by government and private personalities. Government should Put up 5-million peso Reward for info leading to arrest of killers and mastermind. Punish the killers and mastermind behind the media killings!
**—Joel Santos,** *Manila*

i think dat journalists shud b mOre xtra careful nOwadays & This should alsO serve as a wake-up call for our police force to do better.
**—arvin Gonzales, 19,** *quezon city*

Catch the killers and the masterminds and put them in jail. It will surely have deterrent effect.
**—Juan Deveraturda,** *Subic, Zambales*

### Will legalizing jueteng solve the jueteng problem? What will?

yes,& it wil help 2 raise funds 4 our country instead of few personalities only being benefited.
**—Jerry lee, 28,** *quezon city*

jueteng will never be legalized, mawawalan ng lagay ang mga opisyal ng bayan..
**—augie warren,** *baguio*

D law is lenient on jueteng operators. make jueteng a heinous crime
**—ELVIN VENTUCILLO, 31,** *Baliuag, Bulacan*

i dnt thnk so coz lok cockfighting has ben made legal bt stil many of us go 2 d tupadas 8s bt natural 4 us
**—jun apilado, 46,** *tacloban city*

since we r known n d world as gamblers, it would do good 2 legalize jueteng so proceeds would go 2 d State, not to politicians n cops.
**—gerry singson,** *vigan city*

Legalizng jueteng can never solve jueteng problem coz of d added expnses and red tape in securing licenses. It will only add to the problems.
**—bernardo monarca, 42,** *davao city*

Legalzing jutng onli ad reason for others to compromising basic need wid d hope of mtr winnings, putting future in a chance
**—carlito duran, 36,** *davao city*

yes! but for sure another illegal "activities" will take its place.
**—christopher amata, 26,** *cagayan de oro city*

no, its d step 2 corruption. let d law enforcer solve d jueteng.
**—gay tupas,** *digos city*

ANG JUETENG ay Manipestasyon lamang ng KAHIRAPAN, HNGGNG MY Kahirapan, May SU2LPOT Na MGA SUGAL 2LAD NG LOTENG, ENDING, BUKIS NG KARERA.
**—LOUIE LACHICA, 32,** *MANILA*

No ONE except JUAN de la cruz can stop JUETENG.
**—Roderick f tamacay, 22,** *makati city*

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# Across the NATION

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# Boracay in critical condition—Durano

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

**BORACAY, the country's top tourist spot, is now in "critical" condition due to undisciplined development that has been going on for years, according to Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano.**

The island's famed crystal-clear waters and unique white sand beaches are in danger of being lost unless problems on sewerage, garbage disposal and proper construction are addressed now, said Durano.

"The problem of the island is overpopulation. The problem is sustainable development," Durano said in an interview in Boracay last Saturday.

"It's at its critical level," he added.

Boracay's beach front has been overcrowded with all sorts of commercial establishments, including hotels and cottages with manicured bermuda lawns that make them stand out like sore thumbs.

## Covered creek

A freshwater creek along the beach has been illegally covered and on it were built more establishments.

A number of establishments close to the beach do not have proper sewerage systems.

And Boracay's garbage are thrown into an open dump out of sight of the tourists.

"First thing is, it stops," Durano said.

Durano, who was in Boracay for an exercise of the naval task group Stingray, convened for the first time the Boracay Eminent Persons Group that the President formed last April 15.

The others in that meeting were big resort owners Iñigo Zobel and Juan Elizalde representing his father Fred, and secretariat head Connie Padilla.

The other members, Sen. Richard Gordon and Orlando Sacay, external vice president of the Boracay Foundation Inc., a group of big resort owners, were not present.

## Put on hold

Durano said there would be no further development in the island until they could put some order in things.

He did not say when the moratorium would start.

Zobel said the moratorium should be a priority. The other priorities, he said, should be to draw up a proper zoning plan and install properly a sewerage system and garbage disposal system.

"If they can't put up a proper sewerage system, they should not build," he said.

"The island's a ticking time bomb and attentions must be called," said resort owner Jeff Panlaqui, who said he fears that Boracay may go the way of other tourist spots that were lost to congestion and pollution.

"It's uncontrolled development. We have to do something," he added.

Last year tourist arrivals reached 428,755, higher than the 339,434 recorded in 2003, according to the Department of Tourism.

The DENR has postponed to June the closure of establishments that were found to have no proper sewerage systems.

It said 160 out of the 500 establishments did not have proper facilities.

**OVERCROWDED beach becomes a place for massage for foreign tourists who flock to Boracay for its white sand beach and crystal-clear blue waters. Development, however, has been driven recklessly, according to concerned Boracay residents and businessmen.** VAL HANDUMON

# Group of 20 tagged behind illegal logging

KIDAPAWAN CITY—An organized group of 20 people, composed of local leaders and top environment officials, is behind illegal logging in the provinces of Sultan Kudarat and South Cotabato, a ranking military official said.

Col. Jerry Jalandoni, commander of the Army's 604th Infantry Brigade based in Tacurong City in Sultan Kudarat, came out with the allegation after Environment Secretary Michael Defensor ordered an investigation of reports of massive cutting of trees in the hinterlands of the two provinces.

The reports were prompted by the seizure last month of logs worth more than P1 million.

In Ninoy Aquino, Sultan Kudarat alone, the military confiscated 65,000 board feet of logs.

Jalandoni said in Barangay Ned in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, they found 30,000 board feet of freshly-cut trees.

He said "the connivance of the people behind the logging activities" in Sultan Kudarat and South Cotabato has caused "so much damage to the mountains of the adjoining provinces."

*Jeffrey M. Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Global Nature Fund

Conservation of Laguna de Bay's Environment And Resources

Living Lakes

10th Living Lakes Conference
Theme: Responsible Stewardship by Lake Communities
Programme of Events
17 May 2005, Tagaytay City

9.00 – 10.30 Opening of Conference

Welcome Remarks
- ***Ben S. Malayang III***, President, Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands, Philippines
- ***Howard Belton***, Chairman, Unilever Philippines
- ***Edgardo C. Manda***, General Manager, Laguna Lake Development Authority
- ***Abraham N. Tolentino***, Mayor of Tagaytay City, Philippines
- ***Marion Hammerl-Resch***, President, Global Nature Fund, Germany

Keynote Speakers
- ***Prof. Dr. Manfred Niekisch***, Vice President, German League for Nature Conservation and Environmental Protection, Germany
- ***Honorable Michael Defensor***, Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines

11.00 – 13.00 Session: Issues on Lake Stewardship: Legislation and Legal Framework for Managing Lake Communities

Briefing on the State of Laguna de Bay
- ***Edgardo C. Manda***, General Manager, Laguna Lake Development Authority, Philippines

The Concept of Water Quality Management Areas
- ***Dolora N. Nepomuceno***, Assistant General Manager, Laguna Lake Development Authority, Philippines

Constituency Building and Protected Areas Management Board - Taal Lake
- ***Maria Paz Luna***, PUSOD, Taal Lake, Philippines

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch and Poster Session
14.30 – 15.45 Session: Communities as Effective Lake Stewards

The Laguna de Bay Institutional Strengthening and Community Participation Project
- ***Joey Carino***, Laguna Lake Development Authority, Philippines

Environmental Management for Local Communities: How can it work?
- ***Marion Hammerl***, Lake Constance Foundation, Germany

Industry-Led Efforts on River and Lake Rehabilitation: The "SACRED" Experience
- ***Tess Cayton***, San Cristobal River Enhancement Defenders (SACRED), Philippines

16.15 – 17.30 Session: Sustainable Development in Lake Communities

Water Governance: The ICLEI Water Campaign
- ***Pam Gallares-Oppus***, ICLEI, Philippines

Tourism Development and Environmental Land-Use Planning: The Mallorca Experience
- ***Toni Font***, Balearic Group of Ornithology and Defense of Nature (GOB), Spain

Revitalizing People's Initiatives for Taal Lake Management
- ***Ricky Nunez***, PUSOD, Taal Lake, Philippines

18.45 – 19.00 Film: EU-LIFE Project "Living Lakes: Sustainable Management of Wetlands and Shallow Lakes"
19.00 – 21.00 Dinner and Cultural Event

Laguna de Bay PHILIPPINES
OFFICIAL MEMBER HOST

**CLEAR is a tripartite partnership of: Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands (SCPW), and Unilever Philippines**

# Priest fears townsfolk turning to life of crime

LUCENA CITY—The parish priest of Real, Quezon has expressed fears that if the government continues to deny the thousands of typhoon victims-turned-charcoal makers of their right to decent livelihood, most of them may end up as criminals just to survive.

Eusebio Molde, parish priest of St. Raphael Church in Real, told the INQUIRER that in several villages where most residents solely depend on charcoal making for their livelihood, stealing cooked rice from their neighbors has become an ordinary incident.

The priest also reported that recently, passengers of a van were divested of their valuables by robbers.

"Hunger is now forcing some residents to steal their neighbors' pots of rice. They are getting desperate. I'm afraid they will resort to more criminal acts …," Molde said in a mobile phone interview.
*Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

# Benguet execs slam pesticide ads

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—While giant billboards advertising sundry products have dominated the skyline of Metro Manila, vegetable farms in this province have to contend with posters and smaller billboards of different brands of pesticides sprouting in plots, roadsides and walls of farmhouses.

Provincial officials are not happy.

They said the ads were doing more harm than good to the local vegetable industry's image.

The indiscriminate posting of the billboards creates the wrong impression that pesticides are being applied excessively on locally produced vegetables, they said.

In a special session held here recently, the provincial board saw the need to pass an ordinance that would regulate the placing of billboards along the roads and in vegetable farms.

"These billboards reflect the intense competition among companies producing pesticides and other farm inputs," Vice Gov. Crescencio Pacalso said.

The result is that the vegetable industry itself will become the victim of false advertising—that pesticides are being used heavily on vegetables and that the vegetables have become overly dependent on pesticides, Pacalso said.

Patricio Ananayo, chief of the agribusiness bureau of the Department of Agriculture in the Cordillera, said any local legislative measure intended to address the issue on billboards must also require pesticide distributors to secure clearance from local governments before they are allowed to install billboards.

He said the clearance request would put local officials on guard as to the kind of posters or billboards to be placed in their areas.

"Take a trip along Halsema [highway] and you will see some of these billboards plastered on trees, waiting sheds, electric posts, fences and even house walls," Ananayo said.

Definitely, an overflow of advertisements on fungicides, pesticides, insecticides and other farm inputs would place local vegetables in a bad light, he said.

So far, only Atok town has passed an ordinance regulating the posting of pesticide and insecticide billboards.

Board Member Johnny Uy, who was mayor of Atok when the ordinance was passed, said the measure was meant to warn pesticide distributors not to make the town a "free-for-all zone" for commercial billboards. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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PRINSIPE NIÑO ABARQUEZ, JOAQUIN E. MORAS, NONOY JOPSON

2nd Runner Up
MICHAEL A. POTENCIANO, JOHN THOMAS M. GONZALES, BRIAN MOY GONZALES

RACE FINISHERS

TEAM TRIBU (DAVAO TEAM)
JEROMNE A LUENGO
JASON A. LUENGO
RENANTE L. LUENGO

SIDEWAYS
JOSE JR. NAGUIAT POLICARPIO
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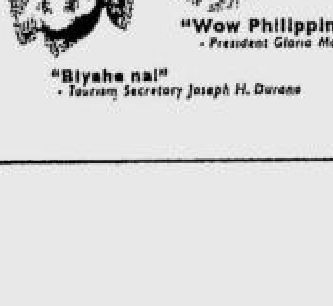

"Biyahe na!"
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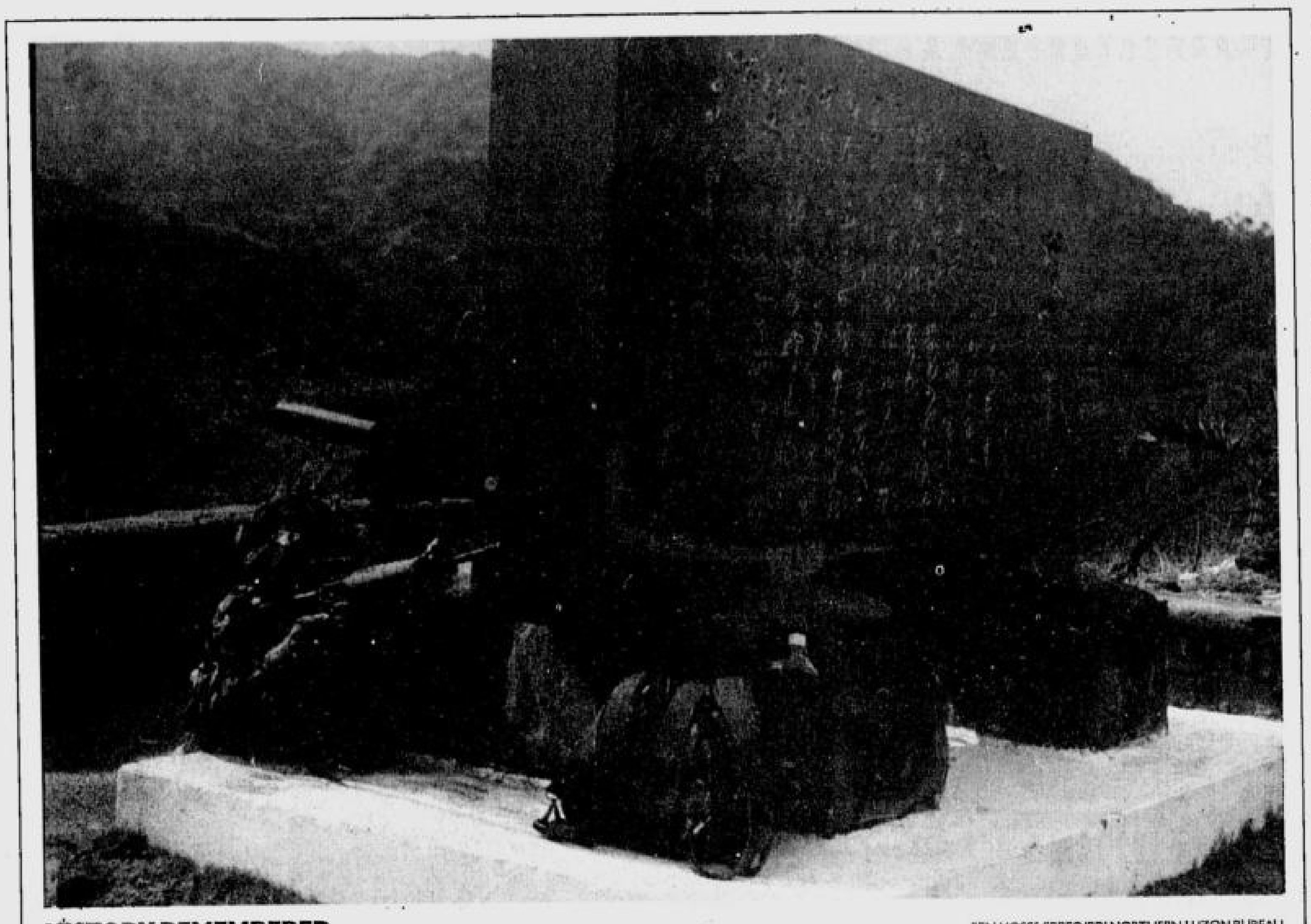


**HISTORY REMEMBERED**

BEN MOSES EBREO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

A Philippine Army soldier aims his rifle at a target while another lies on the ground at the Japanese Shrine on Dalton Pass in Sta. Fe, Nueva Vizcaya during a reenactment of the Battle of the Balete Pass during World War II.

# Cops seize chemicals for shabu in Bulacan

SAN JOSE DEL MONTE CITY, Bulacan—Police recovered six steel drums and 34 crates containing chemicals used in the manufacture of shabu from a vacant lot in Barangay Paradise 3 here on Monday.

Senior Supt. Benedict Michael Fokno, provincial police director, said residents of Sitio Kakawati saw the chemicals being unloaded from an Isuzu Elf truck at about 2 a.m. Saturday.

Fokno said the residents, fearing that the materials were bomb ingredients, immediately reported their find to their village officials.

Members of the provincial police, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and the Philippine National Police's Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (AIDSOTF) went to the area on Sunday to check on the chemical cargoes.

Tests on Monday confirmed that the chemicals were used in manufacturing shabu.

Police said the crates contained bottles of hydrochloric acid. Each crate has 12 bottles.

The drums' contents have yet to be ascertained.

Chief Supt. Ricardo de Leon, chief of the AIDSOTF, said their information showed that the chemicals were owned by one Johnson Chua.

De Leon said Chua maintained a shabu laboratory in Quezon City.

He said the chemicals were dumped and abandoned by Chua's men in the village following a series of raids conducted by police and PDEA personnel in Quezon City.

De Leon said 20 other crates of chemicals were found on Monday in Barangay Gaya-Gaya, about 20 km from Paradise 3.

He said they received reports that several crates of chemicals were dumped in two other sites in the city, but they have yet to locate these.

Police on Monday arrested the truck driver, Gilbert Marcelo, in this city.

Marcelo, however, said he was only ordered to dump the drums and crates here. He said he did not know their contents. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

# Trader escapes from kidnappers in Batangas

**By Marlon Ramos**
*PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Members of the Batangas police rescued a Quezon City businesswoman a few hours after she fled from her abductors in a coastal village in Lemery, Batangas just before dusk on Sunday, police said yesterday.

Chief Supt. Jesus Versoza, Calabarzon police director, identified the victim as Olivia Ting, 36, owner of a store supplying dental equipment and resident of 33-B Doña Juana Avenue, New Manila, Quezon City.

Versoza said members of the Lemery police received a telephone call late Sunday afternoon from a certain Lorrie Barredo, a resident of Barangay Nonong Castro, informing them that a victim of kidnapping had sought police help.

He said a police unit immediately proceeded to the area to verify the report.

## Refuge

Upon reaching the place, police said barangay officials presented to them Ting, who had earlier sought refuge at the house of one Elmer Cortiñas.

Versoza said Ting narrated how six unidentified armed men seized her from her Alpha Dent office on Roosevelt Avenue in Quezon City at around 2 p.m. on Saturday.

"The victim said she was blindfolded, her hands were hogtied (before they brought her) into an old model sedan," he said.

Versoza said the victim didn't know that she had already been brought to a coastal village in Lemery until the kidnappers removed her blindfold.

## Just like in movies

Based on Ting's recollection of the events, what transpired was just like a scene from an old Tagalog movie.

At around 3 p.m. on Sunday, Versoza said Ting noticed that two of the suspects assigned to guard her had fallen asleep.

Versoza said that when the victim found a chance to get out of the beach house where the abductors took her, she ran for safety until she was able to ask for help from Cortiñas, who then brought her to the barangay officials.

He said the policemen proceeded to the beach house where the victim was allegedly held by her captors.

But the raiding team failed to find the kidnappers in the vicinity, he said.

Versoza said police had already assigned police security for Ting while they were still investigating the abduction.

The government has launched a crackdown on kidnapping syndicates, claiming to have busted some of the biggest gangs.

# Drought prompts gov to seek state of calamity

**By Jhunnex Napallacan**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

CEBU CITY—Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado wants the 16 towns in the province's northeastern basin to be placed in a state of calamity to help the farmers hurt by the ongoing drought, which is drying up the dams and has reduced water in their irrigation systems.

Aumentado said he planned to call a meeting with the mayors of the affected towns on May 18 to discuss the passage of separate resolutions, declaring their municipalities in a state of calamity.

After these resolutions were passed, the Bohol governor said the provincial board would also pass a similar resolution so that the provincial government could use its calamity fund to help these towns.

The 16 towns fall within the two watershed areas in Bohol—the Carood watershed and the Inabanga watershed.

Those under the Carood watershed are Ubay, Mabini, Alicia, Candijay, Guindulman and Pilar. The towns under the Inabanga watershed are Inabanga, Carmen, Daogohoy, Danao, San Miguel, Buenavista, Jetafe, Talibon, Trinidad and Sagbayan.

Aumentado said the farmers failed to have a good harvest and had not started to plant after their dams dried up while their water supply was reduced.

He said the people had to purchase distilled bottled water for drinking. For other daily needs, the affected residents get water from deep wells.

A few months ago, Aumentado has coordinated with the Department of Agriculture, Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) and the Philippine Air Force for cloud seeding operations at the province's northeastern portion.

The provincial government purchased P350,000 worth of aviation gas, which it later gave to the Air Force for the operation. The DA, on the hand, provided P350,000 worth of silver iodide and salt.

But Aumentado said the cloud seeding operation could not take off because the Air Force had no available plane every time there was a cloud formation.

Cloud seeding is a technique used to induce rainfall but it can only be successful if rain clouds are present.

Aumentado said he would ask the Air Force to account for the aviation gas.

"We will get back the aviation gas or we will ask them to pay," the governor said.

# Boy, 8, dies, 12 fall sick after eating 'galunggong'

**By Carla P. Gomez**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

BACOLOD CITY—An 8-year-old boy died while 12 of his family members and relatives fell ill of food poisoning after eating fish believed to be spoiled on Friday in Sitio Patag Diotay, Barangay Guimbalaon, in Silay City, Negros Occidental.

John Allen Sonio, 8, died at about 4:30 p.m. on Saturday on his way to the Dr. Jose Locsin Provincial Hospital in Silay, 14.4 km north of this city.

His father, Bernardo Sonio, 23, and his four-year-old sister were also taken to the hospital on Saturday. The girl was released on Sunday.

Silay City Health Officer Sabina Damaso said nine others were hospitalized Sunday and one on Monday.

Benito Sonio, 47 and the boy's grandfather, said John's mother Sharon bought marot fish or *galunggong* at the Silay public market and cooked it for her family on Friday night.

She also shared the fish with three neighboring families in Sitio Patag who were also relatives.

"Food bought in the city proper is usually shared by whoever is able to go there since we live in a remote area," Benito said. Sitio Patag is about 25 km from the Silay City proper.

Benito said on Saturday, his grandson started vomiting. The boy became weak so that in the afternoon, they sought help to bring him to the hospital with his father and sister. But John did not make it.

Silay Mayor Carlo Gamban, who was at the hospital, said the city government was helping the patients.

"Some of them need dextrose that we are providing," he said.

Gamban said he ordered the autopsy of the boy, as an investigation was being conducted to determine the cause of the food poisoning.

Jocelyn Guirnela, midwife of Barangay Guimbalaon, said it was possible that the fish was spoiled because it was sold so cheap at P20.

# *Spat with trader seen behind DENR exec's relief*

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The man who many tagged as "the best Penro Palawan ever had" was recently relieved from his post as the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (Penro) shortly after the visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo and Environment Secretary Michael Defensor last May 10 in Coron, Palawan.

Penro Virgilio Tiongson, a lawyer who has been in Palawan for almost two years, got the relief order last week but he said in a radio interview that he knew it was coming.

"I have already started packing," he said.

Tiongson did not say the reason for his relief but many Palaweños observed that it had something to do with a recent spite with a businessman based in Coron.

Ms Arroyo and her Cabinet stayed in a resort owned by the said businessman.

Last Jan. 29, during an environmental summit in the lobby of a hotel, Noel Matta, owner of Divelink and Coral Bay resorts in Coron, slapped Tiongson.

But Tiongson was quick to say that he was just "slightly slapped in the chin."

Matta, on the other hand, said in a phone interview with a local paper that he did not actually mean to slap Tiongson.

He said for the past three days, he had been trying to set up a meeting with the Penro and OIC-regional director Pobleo Florece who was also with him.

When he went to Florece and the Penro, the director, he said, waved him off.

"My hand went to his direction but the Penro's face happened to be in the way, that's why he was hit," Matta said.

He refused to say what the problem was, except that it concerned his resort business.

Because of the incident, Tiongson filed a complaint for direct assault at the City Court of Puerto Princesa.

This, he said, is to disprove Matta's allegations. He said if he would not do this, people would believe that he was probably guilty of Matta's allegations.

However, nongovernment organizations believed that there might be some politics involved in the relief of Tiongson.

"We are saddened that the Penro will be relieved. He has achieved so much," said lawyer Grizelda Mayo-Anda, executive director of the Environmental Legal Assistance Center.

She said NGOs in Palawan had been receiving reports since July last year that Tiongson would be relieved because there were certain politicians lobbying for the appointment of Rey Crisostomo, who is now the officer in charge of DENR in Palawan.

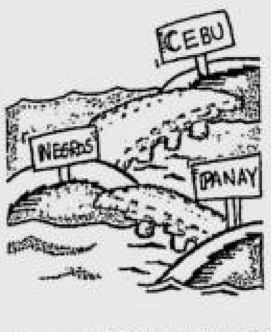
She said Tiongson was the one who called for the investigation of fishpond lease agreements and other major environmental concerns in Palawan.

"He's also the first Penro in Palawan's history who attended our scientific conference," Anda said.

Although it was not the position of DENR, Tiongson was also vocal about his opposition to the construction of a hotel on Snake Island, a tiny sandbar in Puerto Princesa, because he said it was not stable enough. *Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

## ROUNDUP

### Study on bridges sought



BACOLOD CITY—Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon on Monday said a study will be made to determine the possibility of interconnecting Cebu, Negros and Panay by bridges to boost tourism and economic activity on the three Visayan Islands. Marañon said he discussed the plan with Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano, Presidential Adviser for Western Visayas Rafael Coscolluela and Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio Arroyo Jr. when they met during dinner when President Macapagal-Arroyo visited the city last month. But the group did not discuss the proposal with the President because they wanted to have the study completed first. The idea of connecting the islands of Cebu, Panay and Negros with bridges was not new. It was first floated by then Guimaras Gov. Emily Lopez in the mid 1990s but it did not take off. Marañon said the interconnection of the three Visayan islands was more relevant now because it would accelerate commerce and tourism in Western and Central Visayas.

*Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

### Employees to get loan

DUMAGUETE CITY—The provincial government will extend soft loans to its employees to help them get out of their debts that have sometimes reduced their efficiency. "Some of them would not report for work especially during pay day because a lot of their creditors would be lurking around to collect. Sometimes they will escape from work to hide from collectors," said Gov. George Arnaiz. The initial P1 million loan was released in March and channeled to the Negros Oriental Provincial Employees Multi-Purpose Cooperative as the principal debtor of the loan. Arnaiz said payment of the loan would be made through salary deduction. He said a cooperative would formulate the rules for the loans.

*Romy G. Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

### 2 pilots killed in crash

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A Beechcraft twin engine plane crashed in the waters of Ipil town in Zamboanga Sibugay around 1:30 p.m. Monday, the military said. Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacon, commander of the Army's 1st Infantry Division, said the plane, with registration No. RPC808, was trying to land at a landing strip in Ipil but it overshot. Habacon said the pilots, identified as Dioscoro Magallos Jr. and his co-pilot Julie Lee, were both killed. Their bodies were recovered several hours later. Habacon theorized that the pilots overshot the landing strip, near the Palid wharf, because of bad weather.

*Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

### Anti-drug agent killed

URDANETA CITY—An operative of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) was shot and killed along the MacArthur Highway here on May 10. Police said SPO1 Alfredo Ki, 45, a member of the PDEA in Lingayen town, was maneuvering his Mitsubishi Lancer car when the suspect shot him in the left temple. Ki's wife, Leonida, was with him but was unhurt in the attack. The suspect fled in a motorcycle driven by another companion. Leonida said her husband did not receive any death threat before the attack but said he was actively engaged in the crackdown on illegal drug suspects in Pangasinan.

*Nemesio de la Cruz, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

### Village chief gunned down

VILLASIS, Pangasinan—A village chief here was gunned down after watching a basketball game on May 13. Police said Cesar Macanas, 45, village chief of Onzad, was shot as he was about to board his motorcycle after watching the game. The suspect, according to the police, fired at residents who tried to chase him after the shooting. The suspect fled in a Suzuki motorcycle driven by another companion who served as a lookout.

*Nemesio de la Cruz, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

# Bomb sent to radioman kills boy

From page A1

who is vice chair of the Alliance of Anti-Drugs Advocates in the community.

Reports said an unidentified woman asked a tricycle driver to deliver the package containing the bomb to Ceniza's radio station on Friday, but the broadcaster was in Davao City at the time. For still unknown reasons, the box was brought instead to the barangay office.

When he was informed by the barangay *tanod* (village guards) about the package, Ceniza immediately suspected that it was a bomb. He said he had been receiving text messages warning him of harm if he continued to talk against drug pushing in his radio program.

He advised the *tanod* to bring the package to the headquarters of the Army's 28th Infantry Battalion, but one of them got curious and opened it.

The bomb exploded, killing Marlon Jamot, 11, who was about a meter away. Wounded were *tanod* Ruben Litangan, Ramel Perez, 34, and Ramel Guintibano, 32.

## Other threats

In Malaybalay City, another broadcaster said the threats against him had not waned.

On Tuesday last week, police found a bullet for a .357-cal. revolver on the doorstep of Arthur "Jun" Sapanghari's house in Dangcagan town in Bukidnon.

Sapanghari, a correspondent of dxDB Radio Bandilyo of the Catholic Media Network, said the threats would not deter him from performing his job. But he said he had already moved his family elsewhere to spare them from harm.

"I don't feel good about this anymore and I hope the police can provide me security," Sapanghari said.

Fr. Rey Raluto, station manager of dxDB, said the threats could have stemmed from Sapanghari's coverage of a financial mess allegedly involving government officials in Dangcagan and other areas.

"Bandilyo Jun is covering the southern portion of Bukidnon where lots of controversial issues abound. We have always reminded him to be careful," he said.

## Survivor

Raluto disclosed that Sapanghari was offered P50,000 to stop airing a report involving a controversial barangay treasurer.

In October last year, the radio man survived an assassination attempt by two motorcycle-riding armed men.

In North Cotabato, one of the two suspects in the attempted murder of broadcaster Alberto Martinez of Kabacan town surrendered, provincial police director Miguel de Mayo Laurel said.

Laurel said the suspect, Army Cpl. Alvaro Obregon of the 75th Infantry Battalion based in Jolo, Sulu, yielded to his superiors.

Martinez, a commentator of MBC's Radyo Natin in Kabacan, was on his way home at around 7:30 p.m. on April 10 when he was ambushed by two armed men. He suffered two bullet wounds and is still recuperating in a hospital.

Martinez is known for his hard-hitting commentaries on illegal gambling and drugs.

Five journalists have so far been killed this year and 13 media killings were reported last year. The figures prompted the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists to describe the Philippines as the world's most murderous place for journalists.

An investigation by the Brussels-based International Federation of Journalists in January blamed a "widespread culture of violence that is tolerated and condoned by the government and officials" for last year's deaths.

The government has denied there is any sign that journalists are being systematically targeted. *Anthony S. Allada, Grace C. Albasin and Germelina A. Lacorte, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and AFP*

### IN THE KNOW

## *What is a letter-bomb?*

IT IS an explosive device delivered via the postal service. Also called a mail bomb, it is designed to explode when opened. Opening the letter serves as the trigger, just like how a musical greeting card dishes out a song when opened.

The extent of damage depends on the amount of explosive put inside the letter and on whether the sender intends to kill or just injure the recipient.

Bombs delivered by mail can often be recognized because they arrive in suspicious packages or unusual looking letters. Sometimes, the threatened recipient does not expect a letter from anyone.

Other telltale signs:

- Excessive postage since a sender does not want to mail a parcel over the counter.
- The name or address of the recipient is misspelled and not handwritten to avoid a trace.
- It does not bear a return address.
- It is somewhat thick or has bulges.
- It feels rigid or appears uneven.

There are instances that one can feel the wire. It is also oily, considering that the bomb commonly used in letter-bombs is C4.

Anyone who suspects a mail bomb is advised not to open the letter. If there is a protruding string or wire, do not cut or pull it out. Leave it as it is and call the police for assistance.

Do not also operate a mobile phone, as it may be one of the triggering devices of the explosive.

In the United States, anthrax can also be put in envelopes. But Philippine police officials gave assurances that nothing of that type had yet reached the country. The familiar explosive here is C4. *Michael R. Cucio, PDI Research*

*Source: Western Police District Explosives Ordnance Division*

PHILIPPINES

**GIONNA Cabrera, Miss Philippines Universe 2005, poses in a swimsuit while taking a break from taping a segment for the Miss Universe 2005 competition at the Dusit Thani hotel in Bangkok. The pageant will be held on May 31.** AP

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# Landfill reopening stirs up fears

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

SAN MATEO, Rizal, officials are now ready with a proposal to reopen its landfill for Metro Manila's garbage that it ordered closed four years ago.

But this early, officials from neighboring towns said they would junk the plan. Mayor Pedro Cuerpo in Rodriguez (formerly Montalban) town said reopening the landfill would be "too costly and highly impractical."

The Montalban Solid Waste Disposal Facility in Rodriguez is now the destination for the 1,500 tons of daily garbage from at least nine cities and towns in Metro Manila. And because this load is still way below its actual capacity, use of the facility has not yet been maximized, Cuerpo added.

A report earlier said the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) was also looking at the possibility of reopening the landfill, which closed down in 2001. Recently, the San Mateo municipal government sent the MMDA a letter informing the agency about its proposal to reopen part of the landfill.

The plan quickly fanned suspicions that the local government was setting its eyes on accommodating trash from the metropolis again, providing an alternative to the existing Montalban facility.

But San Mateo municipal secretary Rey Torrato told the INQUIRER the proposal was meant to accommodate only locally generated garbage. He explained that the proposal to reopen the landfill was San Mateo's way of complying with Republic Act No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act which provides that each local government unit should have its own landfill by next year.

Cuerpo, however, said that instead of reopening the landfill, San Mateo could just dump its garbage in the 14-hectare Montalban facility.

The mayor also warned that reopening the landfill and eventually making it a destination for the wastes of the metropolis could end up with the closure of the Montalban facility.

"If the San Mateo landfill is reopened to cities and towns in Metro Manila, our facility will be receiving less garbage. Too little garbage would make operating the facility less viable and could end up in the closure of the dump," Cuerpo said. The problem is that the San Mateo landfill could accommodate only so much garbage while the Montalban facility could still be used for seven more years, he added.

When a garbage crisis in Metro Manila loomed following the closure of the San Mateo landfill and the Payatas dump tragedy, only Rodriguez volunteered to accept the garbage of the metropolis, the mayor said. His decision to offer the town as the waste basket of the metropolis faced stiff opposition from groups in Rodriguez.

But Cuerpo said yesterday the town had found gold in garbage that was used to fund local projects.

# Prices stable for school supplies

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PRICES of school supplies would remain stable when schools open next month.

Trade Secretary Juan B. Santos got this assurance yesterday from manufacturers, distributors and retailers.

Santos said the commitment was made during his meeting with representatives of the Philippine School Pads and Notebooks Manufacturers Association, Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Philippine Stationers Association and National Bookstore.

"Prices will remain at current (as of March) levels as long as there is no major change in the cost of manufacturing components of school supplies," Santos said.

He added that officials of market leader Amalgamated Specialties Corporation promised to freeze prices of pencils, ball pens and crayons.

Retail giant National Bookstore, which produces some school supplies under its own brand, also agreed to maintain current prices, according to Santos.

The trade secretary said, depending on how much they were willing to pay, buyers could choose from ordinary and special types of notebooks and papers.

Santos said the Department of Trade and Industry would consult with suppliers of raw materials used in the production of school supplies—such as paper and plastics—to forestall any unnecessary price increases.

JOAN BONDOC

**HELPING HANDS**
Parents, teachers, students and volunteers join hands in cleaning restrooms and classrooms at the Tandang Sora Elementary School in Quezon City. The nationwide cleanliness campaign was launched by the Department of Education in preparation for the opening of classes in June.

# Fires hit supermart, Pasay homes

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Fran Katigbak

MORE than P10 million worth of property and grocery products went up in smoke after a four-hour fire hit a supermarket in Mandaluyong City early yesterday morning.

Firefighters had a difficult time getting inside the building because of its tightly locked steel doors.

FO2 Victorio Tablay said security guard Raymundo Gramo was making his rounds at the Liberty Center Mall on Shaw Boulevard at about 4:30 a.m. when he detected the smell of burnt electric wire.

The small mall housed the Puregold Price Club Supermarket and a few other stalls and restaurants.

Apart from the security guards, nobody was inside the building when the fire broke out.

Investigators have not yet determined the cause of the fire.

In Pasay City yesterday afternoon, fire razed about 20 houses at a residential compound close to a fire station.

The fire began at about 1:40 p.m. in the home of Irma Aguirre and spread rapidly to houses at Barangay 67 and 184 along Dolores Street.

Investigators said firemen had a hard time putting the fire out because the alleys leading to the burning structures were narrow, hampering them from bringing in their hoses and fire trucks.

Nobody was reported hurt in the fire. *With Chicklet G. Millo, trainee*

# MRT postpones 'inevitable' fare hike

By Luige A. del Puerto

MALACAÑANG has temporarily shelved a plan to increase the fare for the Metro Rail Transit-3. But MRT general manager Roberto Lastimoso said the fare hike was inevitable. Fares had to increase sooner or later, or the trains would stop running.

"It is inevitable," Lastimoso said during Monday's flag-raising ceremony inside the national police headquarters in Camp Crame.

"If we cannot increase our fare and government cannot subsidize us anymore because it has no money, the system could stop... we may have (no more) spare parts," he said.

But for now, the fare would be unchanged, he said.

"The President (Arroyo) is still very sensitive to the plight of our people. We still have problems with our economy so she does not want us to implement it (fare hike)," Lastimoso said.

He disclosed that the government subsidized MRT commuters by around P80 million a month.

The train system's current obligations total about P210 million a month. It earns considerably less than that.

"We get P80 million from other fundings to pay our obligations. If we don't pay, the maintenance provider won't have money to buy parts. The train system won't be maintained," Lastimoso said.

He said the government could delay the increase as long as it could subsidize the costs. But he strongly hinted that the subsidy could not go on indefinitely.

# Strict curfew hours for Manila's minors

By Tina G. Santos

ALARMED over the spate of gang-style clashes in some parts of the city, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday ordered barangay authorities to intensify the enforcement of a curfew for minors.

The curfew would take effect from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. the next day.

Atienza ordered Barangay Bureau director Norberto Enriquez to issue a memorandum to all local leaders, reminding them of City Ordinance No. 8046 which strictly prohibits minors from loitering on the city streets beyond 10 p.m.

The mayor took note of recent reports that fights between rival youth gangs had been taking place in some parts of the city, especially in Districts 5 and 6.

He instructed barangay chiefs to mobilize their men to monitor the activities of youth gangs to prevent them from engaging in illegal activities.

## Night patrols

Atienza added that the Western Police District (WPD) mobile units patrolling city streets during the curfew hours should help in strictly enforcing the ordinance.

"I want the barangay and the police to intensify night patrols to prevent more street gang wars from erupting," he said.

"Police and barangay tanod visibility is a big deterrent not only to street gangs but other criminal elements," the mayor added.

Exempted from the curfew are youths with passes issued by their barangay and those accompanied by adults.

## Other exemptions

The ordinance, which was enacted in 2002, also exempts from the curfew those out on errands such as buying medicine, using telecommunication facilities for emergency purposes, or those who are students of night schools or workers on the night shift.

To avoid abuse, apprehended youths cannot be held for more than three hours, according to the ordinance.

If the offender is not a Manila resident, he or she must not be held for more than six hours.

If the youth is homeless or abandoned, he or she must be turned over to the social welfare department in 12 hours.

In a bid to eliminate gang wars in the city, WPD recently conducted a "saturation drive" that netted several vagrant youths in Manila.

Police said the raids were brought about by complaints of residents regarding noise and violent activities brought about by warring gangs.

# Car theft charges filed vs raiding team

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE MALABON City chief prosecutor yesterday filed car theft charges against 10 members of an anti-illegal drugs task force for taking into custody vehicles which were not included in the search warrant during a raid.

City Prosecutor Jorge Catalan identified the suspects as Police Inspectors Pepito Garcia, Joven Trinidad and Angelo Nicolas; Senior Police Officers 2 Adolfo de Ramos and Severino Busa; Police Officers 3 Josefina Callora, Renato Gregorio, Rogie Pinili and Rogelio Rodriguez, and PO1 Richel Creer.

The group belongs to the Criminal Detection and Investigation Unit based in Camp Crame previously headed by Police Chief Supt. Federico Laciste.

However, Laciste was not included in the charge sheet for lack of evidence to prove that he was part of the conspiracy, the prosecutor said.

After the raid, the group allegedly took custody of a Mitsubishi Delica van and a green Honda City, which were not on the warrant's list, from the house of Shi Zheng Pang at No. 69 White Lily Street, Block 15, Lot 14, Victoneta North Subdivision, Potrero, Malabon on the suspicion that the house was an illegal drugs laboratory. The raid yielded negative results, and led to the filing of charges against the team members.

# How about deputizing civilians for police work?

**ON TARGET**

*Ramon Tulfo*

WHENEVER there's a spate of crimes involving the use of guns, antigun advocates' No. 1 whipping boys are citizens who hold licensed firearms or those applying for a gun license.

This is unfair. Licensed gun holders or those applying for a gun license go through a very strict screening process in acquiring a gun. The Philippine National Police makes them undergo requirements that, figuratively, have them pass through the eye of a needle. Among them are a neuropsychiatric exam, a drug test and a seminar.

In other words, a licensed gun holder most probably would not commit a crime because he would remember all the hardships he went through to obtain his firearm.

Criminals and policemen who commit crime don't go through such rigid tests in acquiring a gun. Criminals use unlicensed guns in robbing banks or kidnapping for ransom. Rogue cops failed the neuropsychiatric test or paid off those who gave it; otherwise, why would they harm citizens they have sworn to protect?

Why don't antigun advocates focus, instead, on criminals and rogue cops who commit wrongdoings? These are the people who should take the blame for crimes involving the use of guns.

* * *

**There's a proposal to deputize members of the Philippine Practical Shooting Association as police agents. Director General Arturo Lomibao is interested in the idea and has ordered a feasibility study. In a talk I had with him last week, Lomibao said he would meet with PPSA top honchos to sound them out on the proposal. Rep. Juan Ponce "Jack" Enrile of Cagayan is PPSA president.**

**Under the plan, gun-carrying PPSA members would arrest malefactors when they see crimes being committed in their presence. Although any citizen could do that, a civilian deputy policeman has more power to do so because he would have a police badge.**

**The PPSA is a group of shooting enthusiasts who hold regular competitions to hone their skills. Many PPSA members are also law enforcement agents or military personnel. The civilian members of the PPSA are mostly prominent citizens who have distinguished themselves in their respective professions or fields. In short, they don't need salaries; they are driven by the desire to help create peaceful communities. The PNP's crime-fighting capability would be boosted if the plan pushed through.**

* * *

Using prominent members of the community as deputy policemen is not new. In some towns and counties in the United States where they lack policemen or sheriffs, civilians are appointed as deputy sheriffs or deputy policemen to help in law enforcement. Many of them are prominent members of their communities. They work part-time and hardly receive any pay since most of them are highly paid professionals. Why doesn't the PNP give the idea a try?

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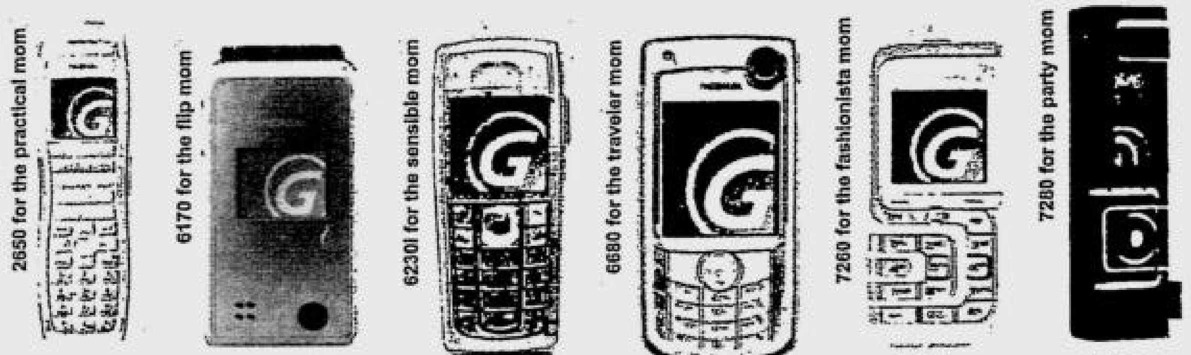

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**SPORTS TV**

Compiled by L. Mangulat

**GOLF**: LPGA Chick-Fil-A; 6:30 p.m. and midnight; ESPN – Check out the first and second round of the tournament won by Jennifer Rosales last year.

Annika Sorenstam – A Dominant Force; 8:30 p.m.; STAR Sports.

**TENNIS**: ATP Hamburg Masters Highlights; 3:30 p.m. and 11 p.m.; STAR Sports – Take another look at the best clay court moments in Germany.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

# Heat still on Fil-foreign cagers

**By June Navarro**

NOT so fast.

**After completing the documentary requirements, the foreign-bred players earlier cleared by the Philippine Basketball Association are not off the hook for good.**

The PBA Board of Governors yesterday gave the go-signal for teams to further scrutinize the citizenship papers submitted by the 20 foreign-born players within a 90-day grace period.

"If they (teams) have an issue against any of the players, then they must raise it to the DOJ (Department of Justice)," said PBA commissioner Noli Eala after the lengthy board meeting attended by all team representatives except Coca-Cola.

Eala added that any decision by the justice department with respect to the authenticity of the supplementary documents turned in by the players automatically becomes the position of the pro league.

"Teams have 90 days to question the veracity of the documents. Otherwise, the players will be cleared by the PBA without casting any doubt on their citizenship for the rest of their careers," said Eala.

EALA

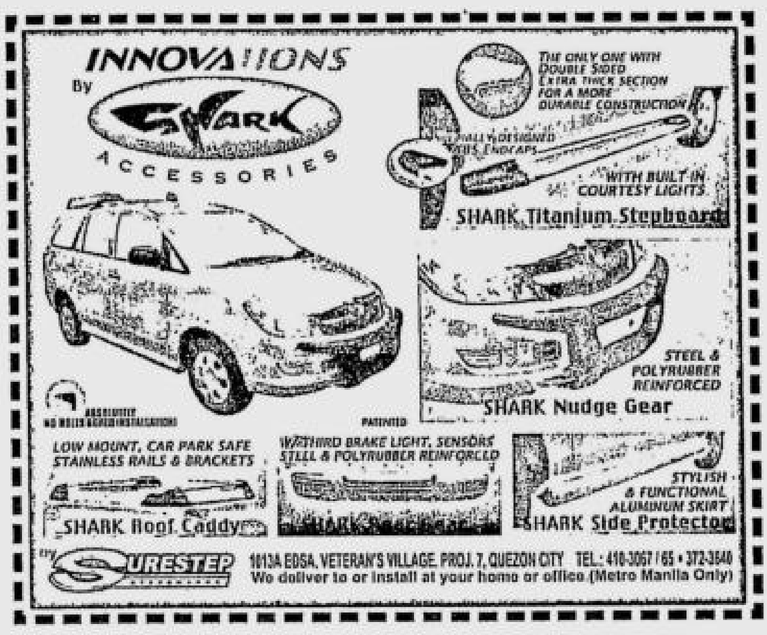
At least 14 of the 20 foreign-born players have been allowed to rejoin their mother ballclubs after serving a temporary suspension for failing to submit the documentary requirements on time.

Barangay Ginebra's Eric Menk, Andy Seigle and James Walkvist; Jimmy Alapag of Talk 'N Text; Shell's Chris Jackson and Rafi Reavis of Coca-Cola remained suspended pending the completion of the documents being asked by the league.

Among the players already cleared were San Miguel's Danny Seigle and Dorian Pena; Coca-Cola's William Antonio and Manny Ramos; Noy Castillo of Purefoods; Alaska's Jeffrey Cariaso, Sonny Thoss, Don Allado, Mike Cortez, Eugene Tejada and Rob Johnson and Shell's Kalani Ferreria and Tony Dela Cruz.

Eala said the 90-day period of scrutiny will begin when teams receive the complete set of documents submitted by the players.

"We will distribute copies of these documents to all the teams. If there's no objection to a particular player within that period, then they will be declared as legal Fil-foreign players in the league," explained Eala.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# Peping defers BAP decision for today

**By Musong R. Castillo**

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee is not rushing a decision on its row with the Basketball Association of the Philippines over the formation of the national quintet for the Seaba (Southeast Asian Basketball Association) tournament in Singapore next month.

POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco postponed for today his decision on the BAP's "reneging" from a previous commitment on the RP five issue to meet with several heads of the national sports associations at his home last night.

COJUANGCO

Joey Romasanta, spokesperson for the former Tarlac Congressman, confirmed that Cojuangco did have a meeting scheduled with POC chair Robert Aventajado "and two other persons in Dasmariñas."

Romasanta added that Aventajado had assured him that a decision will be handed down today.

Cojuangco had threatened to withdraw POC recognition of the BAP when the cage body decided to field its own team for the Seaba with Boyzie Zamar as coach several days after top BAP officials had supported a decision by the basketball committee to entrust the formation of a new team to Chot Reyes from among the country's top players.

The BAP was asked by Cojuangco to explain its sudden turnaround even as he was given by the POC executive board full authority to decide on the issue.

An official, however, said only the POC general assembly can sanction an NSA following the approval of at least two-thirds of the 38 voting members.

# Volleyball stays in Bacolod

INDOOR and beach volleyball stays in Bacolod City for the November Southeast Asian Games.

This was assured yesterday by volleyball association president Roger Banzuela, who nevertheless confirmed the clamor to hold the event in Cebu City.

"It's final. It's way too late to transfer venues according to the Philsoc (Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee)," Banzuela told the INQUIRER.

He added that the Asian Volleyball Association is set to conduct a final ocular inspection of the West Negros College in Bacolod, including the lighting requirement for indoor volleyball.

"They want it (volleyball) to be held in Cebu City because of the successful staging of the Asian qualifying there last March," said Banzuela. "But the decision was all up to the Philsoc."

Aside from beach and indoor volleyball, Bacolod will also stage crowd-drawing events like boxing, men's football and weightlifting.

Cebu will host taekwondo, judo, karatedo, pencak silat, sepak takraw, dancesports and cycling while Subic will host triathlon and sailing.

*Marc Anthony Reyes*

# SSC spikers prevail anew

SAN SEBASTIAN survived a third set mental lapse and regrouped in the next to repulse Far Eastern University, 25-18, 25-16, 22-25, 25-18, yesterday and seize the solo lead with two straight victories in the 2005 Shakey's V-League first conference at the Lyceum Gym.

Playing with so much confidence following their stunner of a victory over inaugural champion and last conference's runner-up University of Santo Tomas in Saturday's opener at the Ateneo gym, the SSC spikers overpowered their rivals behind Cherry Rose Macatangay, who spewed fire again with 27 points.

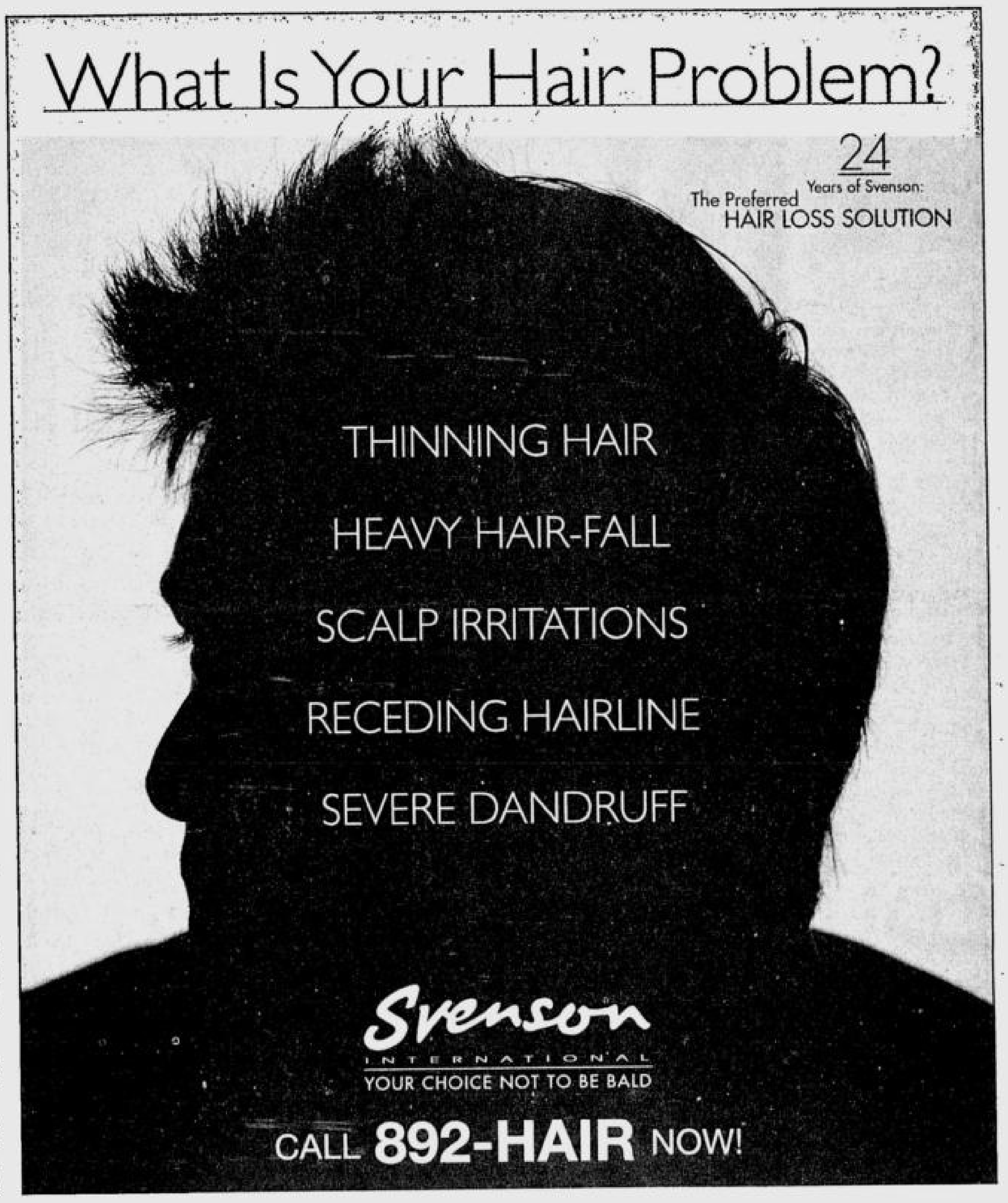
The bulk of the output came from attacks as the Lady Stags found themselves the leaders in the compact six-team field featuring the country's top collegiate women's volleyball squads backstopped by members of the national pool.

Getting the right people to back-up a youth-laden but talented crew, San Sebastian now seems to be a certified contender after failing to land a spot in the Magic Four in the last conference of this tournament sponsored by Shakey's Pizza and organized by Sports Vision Management Group Inc.

San Sebastian took the first two sets in convincing fashion with Macatangay, acquired from Letran after the Muralla-based team opted not to participate, teaming up with the solid-hitting duo of Jennifer Bohawe and Laurence Ann Latigay.

But the Lady Stags seemed to have celebrated too early, enabling the Lady Tamaraws to unload one solid defensive game to steal the third set.

Power-hitting Ruby May Rovira led FEU with 24 points, 19 of them on kills.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# Torrid scoring seen in 89th Philippine Open

89TH
PHILIPPINE
OPEN
MAY 19 - 22, 2005

IF THE winds don't come, par will take a beating in the 89th Philippine Open set this week in Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club in Lipa City.

"A four-day total of 12-under will win it, definitely," Robert Pactolerin, the 1990 Open winner, said in Filipino. "It can go higher than that, but definitely, this Open will be one to remember because of the scoring."

To be played at Malarayat's composite layout measuring just close to 7,000 yards, the 89th edition of Asia's oldest championship promises to yield low scores with the absence of the winds at this time of the year.

"Heat can be a factor, of course," Pactolerin added. "But if the winds don't blow, people will see the players playing target golf the whole week."

The deep rough and narrow fairways will also put premium on accuracy for the $200,000 event staking $31,500 to the winner.

Malarayat's last line of defense will be its fast greens, which will be trimmed further after the conclusion tomorrow of the Celebrity Pro-Am officially kicking off the Asian Tour event being presented by PAL, ICTSI, San Miguel Corp. and Konica U-bix.

Thaworn Wiratchant of Thailand and Americans Anthony Kang and Andrew Pitts lead the foreign charge in the event also backed by the Hanjin Group, Pagcor, Aboitiz Group, Petron, PCSO and the DOT with the Lima City Hotel as the official residence.

The newly inaugurated, 32-room Malarayat Hotel will be the official home of the local amateurs, while the Mt. Malarayat Inn, a 24-room structure, will house—for free—the tournament staff, television crew and media that will cover the event.

A His & Hers pair of Constellation watches from Omega and a horde of home theater items will be raffled off during the Celebrity Pro-Am awarding where Lipa City mayor Vilma Santos-Recto is the guest of honor.

"The greens are tough, even during practice. But these players are pros, they'll know what to do," Pactolerin said.

Now 43, Pactolerin remains a strong contender in the country's national championship along with former winners Cassius Casas and Gerald Rosales.

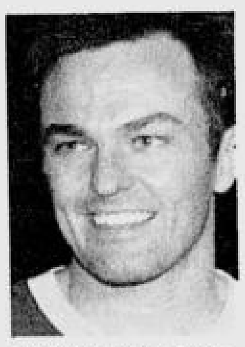
Aside from Asian Tour regular Angelo Que, Pactolerin also mentioned Antonio Lascuna, Jerome Delariarte and Danny Zarate as the local players to watch from the starting field of 156 players.

# Jewels seek semis versus Paintmasters

**GAMES TODAY (JCSGO Gym)**
2 p.m.—G. Goose vs Magnolia
4 p.m.—Welcoat vs Montaña

**MONTAÑA Pawnshop remained unstoppable even without streakshooter Alex Compton.**

The Jewels will be all the more tougher for Welcoat Paints when the veteran guard suits up today in the PBL Unity Cup at the JCSGO Gym in Cubao.


COMPTON: back in action for Montaña

Hoping to also get solid games from Ariel Capus and Paul Guerrero, the Jewels will try to avoid complications by winning the 4 p.m. game to secure the first outright semifinal slot.

Earlier at 2 p.m., defending champion Magnolia Ice Cream and Granny Goose clash to pump life in their bid for the twice-to-beat bonus in the quarterfinal round.

The Paintmasters, who lost to the Jewels in the Open finals last conference, are bidding to stop a two-game slide.

And Fil-Am star Anthony Washington, who delivered only 9.5 points and eight rebounds in those two setbacks, needs to regain his bearings in this crucial match.

Another Welcoat loss will easily give the two outright semifinal seats to the Jewels and the Harbour Centre Portmasters.

Capus, who recently delivered his season-best performance with 20 points, will again try to step up as the Jewels gun for a repeat of their 88-86 overtime victory against Welcoat.

Magnolia will also try to post its second win against Granny Goose with new Fil-Am recruit Kelly Williams.

The 6-foot-5 Williams, who can impressively play all positions, had an auspicious debut with 15 points, four rebounds and five assists in Magnolia's 100-64 win against Nenaco-San Beda.

Granny Goose, however, also has its own dominating big man in JR Quiñahan. Last Tuesday, the 6-foot-5 Cebuano center led the Kornets with 27 points, 10 rebounds and three blocks in their 78-74 win over Bacchus.

Magnolia triumphed over Granny Goose, 62-54, in their first encounter. But the Kornets will try to the play spoiler's role again after pulling recent upsets over league heavyweights Montaña and Welcoat.

*Jasmine W. Payo*

**MONICA Aleta teams up with fellow newcomer Joan Carpio to reach the finals.** ERNIE SARMIENTO

# Rizal booters prevail

THE BOYS from Rizal scored seven goals for the second time in as many games—this time against host Tarlac, 7-3—to win the North/Central Luzon leg of the PFF-Petron U-17 Championships recently.

Known for its defense, Rizal gave up three goals to host Tarlac as it did in its opening game against Pampanga (5-3), but relied on the relentless attack by its strikers to come out on top after 90 minutes.

Rizal's goals were contributed by Nino Francisco (4th and 28th minutes), Reggie Denon (14th), Jun Paolo Labudahon (23), Jestonie Eden (35), Rodhan Manzares (75) and Alexis Bernabe (87).

The Tarlac goal-makers were Allan Estarva (6th minute) and JR Ramos on the 76th and 80th minute.

The event was hosted by the Tarlac Football Association headed by councilor Glenn Caritativo and supported by Tarlac Mayor Genaro Malvar Mendoza; Leo Sison and Girlie Gregorio of Luisita Center. Tournament commissioner for the three-day event was Pabs Araneta of the Philippine Football Federation.

# Navy spikers meet Nationals for title

ANGELES City—Last year's grand champions Michelle Laborte and Cecille Tabuena made a return trip to the finals of the 2005 Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball Tournament with a smashing five-win romp, spiked by a huge 21-8 semifinal victory over the veteran pair of Lou Maranon and Jackie Ann Montefrio at the Clearwater Country Club here yesterday.

But it won't be a walk in the park for the 2004 titlists in the finals, not against the amazing tandem of Monica Aleta and Joan Carpio, who are first-timers in the Petron series, but have indeed proven their mettle after the eliminations of the two-day volleyball fiesta.

Aleta, a former Far Eastern U standout and Carpio, an ex-University of Sto.Tomas volleyball team mainstay, are likewise unbeaten in the qualifying round, including a thrilling 21-18 triumph over the Foundation U-Ateneo de Davao duo of Rolyn Marquicias and Erika Tiamzonin the semifinals.

## SPORTSWATCH

### JVC badminton wraps up in Bacolod

BACOLOD stages the fourth and last JVC Regional Badminton Championships beginning today with a merry mix of players vying for top honors in various divisions at the Pohang Badminton Center at Dr. Pablo Torre Street in Bacolod City. Close to 300 netters are expected to compete in the elite, juniors and collegiate divisions with Spyro Mijares, winner of the men's singles crown in Cebu two weeks ago, bringing his act to this home of the world-famous Masskara festival for another title bid. He will be up against players from Iloilo, Silay, Talisay, La Carlota, Bago, Capiz, Cebu and Bacolod. Gracing the opening rites at 10 a.m. are JVC (Phils.) Inc. president and COO Hideyuki Takato, Kazue Salud, general manager of JVC (Phils.) Inc., SEA Games committee secretary general Eric Loretizo, Fr. Emil Jaruda, president of Negros Occidental Private Schools Sports and Cultural Association and Al Espino, chair of the Bacolod City Sports Commission.

### 21 bouts kick off Palawan boxfest

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Twenty-one bouts usher in the 2005 National Youth and Women's Amateur Boxing Championships here today. Boxers from 25 teams representing 22 local government units from all over the country will slug it out in the next seven days for titles in 11 divisions in the kids' category, 16 in the school boys, 13 in cadet and 12 in juniors, as well as 13 in women's boxing for aspirants aged 17 to 34.

### Head Penn Junior tennis under way

THE FINAL leg of the 2005 Head Penn Junior tennis tournament starts today at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Sponsored by Dynamic Sports Corporation and sanctioned by the Philippine Tennis Association (Philta), the premier tennis grassroots development program will be staged up to May 22. Categories include the boys' and girls' singles in 21-and under, 18-and-under, 16-and-under; 14-and-under; 12-and-under; and the 10-and-under for both sexes. The tournament will also include a photo contest with a cash prize of P10,000 for the winner. Official entries, with the clippings of the published photograph, name of publication and date published, must be submitted to Christaliza Tang, 5/F K-Plaza, 18 Kamuning Road, Quezon City on or before May 31.

### NCA 7-Cock derby slates 50 fights

ONLY the best gamebirds from winning lines will be fielded today as the National Cockers Association (NCA ) 7-Cock Derby gets under way at the 17, 000-seat Araneta Coliseum. The first of more than 50 fights starts at 5 p.m. Host of the event is Patrick Antonio, who leads the NCA Cocker of the Year battle. Last week, the Mt. Panamao entry of Biliran Rep. Gerry "Boy" Espina emerged as solo champion after posting seven wins in as many fights. Competing today are Gov. Ito Ynares, NCA secretary general Jun Santiago, Big Dome owner Jorge "Nene" Araneta, Rene Medina, Rudy Albano, John Capinpin, Boy Marzo, JV Magsaysay, Ruel Ricafort, Pol Estrellado, Boy Royo, Benjie Lim, Tony Lasala, Gerry Ramos, Jun and Rudy Jingco, Boy Jiao and Rep. Ronnie Puno. The finals will be on Thursday. For inquiries, call 911-3101 and 911–2928 ( look for Gloria Avena ).

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Race 4—1. Stradivarius 2. Rockwell 3. Holy Smoke 4. Sa Wakas
Race 5—1. Speed O'War 2. Bulakeña 3. Wild Orchid/Dream Cross 4. Lolita 5. Cosanne
Race 6—1. Hellfire 2. Cat's Jewel 3. Hazmagic 4. Native Land
Race 7—1. Amuridik 2. Rebound 3. Open Sky 4. Precious Moment 5. Fine Offer
Race 8—1. Inner Wheeler/Ilang Ilang Queen 2. Silver Cho Cho 3. Flaming Heart 4. Naughty 5. Legally Blonde 6. Casanova

# ₱1M for Team Iguana as race champ

By Jasmine W. Payo

WITH A lot of skills and luck, Team Iguana humbled its rivals on a beat-up 4x4 in a 2,000-kilometer swing around Luzon to win the P1 million grand prize in the Island Paradise Adventure Race on Sunday night.

Seasoned adventure racers Andrew Chinalpan Jr., Orville Bernabe and Dennis Ararao finished with nine overall demerit points after dominating the event in their orange Nissan Frontier.

"I think we have the oldest car but we were still lucky to get an early lead," said the 31-year-old Chinalpan, whose team bucked tire troubles during the early stretch of the nine-day auto rally.

Team Iguana won a tight contest against Team Edge bannered by national triathlon record-holder Nonoy Jopson, Quinito Moras and Niño Abarquez, who finished with 15 overall demerit points in their Ford Ranger.

Top formula driver Mike Potenciano, Bryan Gonzales and JT Gonzales of MP Turbo also finished with 15 points, but settled for third place after Team Edge won the tiebreak by finishing with the most number of perfect laps.

"We really have the best three teams here," said Jopson after Edge bagged the P300,000 prize. "The 200-km drive each day took its toll but the teams who won sweated it out."

Potenciano, who drove an automatic Toyota Hilux, was also satisfied with his team's performance.

"We did well in the first two days and then we fell. But I'm proud that we climbed up to third," he said.

Teams raced through a prescribed time in each stage. Along the way, they also battled it out in strenuous or fun challenges such as milking a carabao in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija; trekking for four hours in Batad, Ifugao; driving an all-terrain vehicle in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte; surfing in San Narciso, Zambales; and building a fire in Subic, Olongapo.

"It was emotional stress more than anything else," said Moras. "We have athletic backgrounds so the challenges were easy for us. Efficiency was the name of the game. Getting on time, that's the pressure every single day."

The grueling competition, however, also had its share of controversy with two teams quitting in protest of several race rules.

Honda Petron-Blazers, a consistent top three performer earlier in the race, pulled out a day before the final leg, while Cebu Black Shama dropped out on the fourth stage, leaving only 12 teams at the finish at Eastwood in Libis, Quezon City.

The race champions had their share of misadventures.

On the sixth stage, race officials slapped Team Iguana with 15 demerit points for inadvertently driving against traffic in Vigan City. But the winning team recovered by earning bonus points in the final stages.

# Monitoring Mount Malarayat

**SPECTATOR**

*Al S. Mendoza*

THE VENUE of this year's Philippine Open is more than just a golf course. It is, in the words of its founder, "a family destination."

Said architect Antonio "Manong Tony" Turalba Sr., the 62-year-old, super modest father of The Mount Malarayat Golf and Country Club in Lipa City, Batangas: "Our course was designed merely as part of a resort community, which makes it an instant family destination because we encourage our golfers to bring their family here for not just a golf game but also for an entire weekend of fun as the resort also offers many sporting ventures other than golf."

The Malarayat GCC boasts of 25 rooms at The Inns, 18 rooms at The Suites, including 3 presidential suites, and 44 rooms at The Hotel. It has facilities for squash, badminton, basketball, fishing, RC racing, volleyball, tennis and even equestrian. Its Children's Country Club—the only one of its kind maybe in the country—has its own showers and lockers. The resort has its own spa, steam, sauna and jacuzzi amenities.

"We figured that our friends from Makati would travel 1 hour and 15 minutes at the most to get here," said Manong Tony. "Our members would come here for a round of golf and after that, they'd stay in for the night, or two nights, three nights with the family to fully enjoy the club's facilities and have the built-in bonus of communing with nature at its best, especially the cool climate of Lipa."

Not known to many, Lipa City, surrounded by thick, mountain foliage and trees towering to the sky, is 1,200 feet above sea level.

"We don't really have a summer here in the strictest sense of the word," said Manong Tony.

Come evenings at Mount Malarayat, you need to wear a jacket to ward off a winter-like chill virtually all year round.

Katy Katigbak, the aide-de-camp of President Ramos for 18 years who plays to a 9-handicap, has left his Quezon City abode after military service to live permanently in Lipa, where he has a treasure of 2,000 adult mahogany trees, among other natural treasures he owns at nearby Mount Malarayat.

The Mount Malarayat golf course is inside a sprawling 200-hectare lush vegetation that prettily sits beside three mountain ranges snaking around it like a giant python. The three ranges have natty names: Mount Makulot, Mount Lobo and Mount Malipunyo.

I played the course on Saturday. And, oh Lord, what I had rediscovered was like a jewel I lost ages ago. Thank God, its latent beauty will be finally unveiled to the world. That's when the four-day 89th Philippine Open is staged there this week starting on Thursday, May 19. The Celebrity Pro-Am tomorrow, May 18, will kick off hostilities for the Asian Tour event offering a total pot of $200,000.

After playing Mount Malarayat on Saturday, May 14, Thailand's Wanchai Meechai of the Asian Golf Tour, told Admiral Louie Fernandez, chair of the 89th RP Open organizing committee: "I've traveled around the world and seen the best courses in the world. I tell you, this course should rank among the Top 5 in the world."

When informed of this, Manong Tony said: "I am flattered. I hope that comes from the heart."

An all-weather course built by the renowned JMP Design Group of Saratoga, California, under the wings of Michael Poellet and Bob Moore, Mount Malarayat, which opened in 1997, has magnificent installations of at least 3-1/2 kilometers of pipes per hole, 12 inches of sand to cap the piped-in, pebbled-reinforced soil, and five lakes serving as catch basins. The lakes are harnessed to cycle water back into the course for watering.

So all weather is the course that it dries up within minutes after a really strong downpour.

To prove its worthiness to this claim, a player is refunded his green fee if he returns to the clubhouse with mud in his golf shoes. Plus a no green-fee round in his next visit to the course.

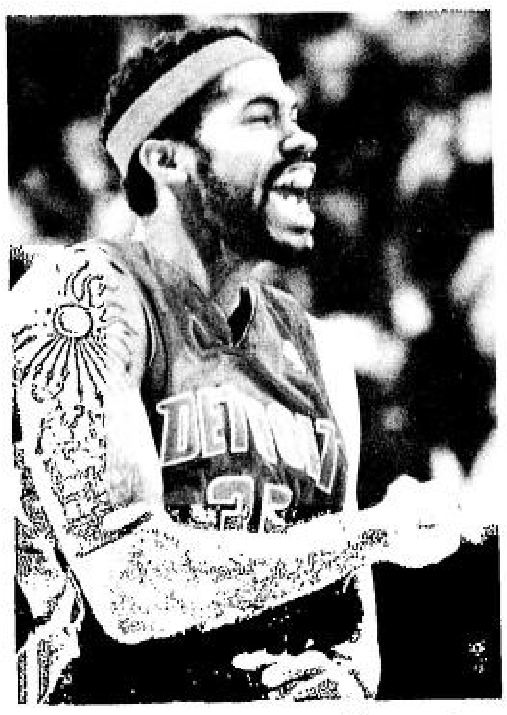
"For nearly eight years since we opened, no one has claimed a refund," said Manong Tony, whose 27-hole Mount Malarayat course also boasts of fairway lots with cuts of from 400-sq.m. to 1,100-sq.m. "Our Phase 1 is sold out, Phase 2 is half-sold and our Phase 3 will open soon."

And the food there, uh-oh, they can match, if not surpass, any cuisine of a five-star hotel/restaurant in Metro Manila. They're so good you want to be back the day after you left.

There's a saying, "It's not the destination, it's the trip."

In the case of Mount Malarayat, it goes both ways.

# Sonics, Mavs tie West semis foes



PISTONS' Rasheed Wallace celebrates after Game Four of the Eastern Semifinals. AFP

**WASHINGTON—Strong showings from National Basketball Association stars Steve Nash and Tim Duncan went for nothing on Sunday as the Seattle SuperSonics and Dallas Mavericks posted home wins to level both Western Conference semifinal series.**

Ray Allen and Luke Ridnour helped overcome Duncan's impressive effort in Seattle, where the Sonics beat San Antonio, 101-89, to knot their series at two games apiece.

In Dallas, recently named NBA Most Valuable Player Nash scored a career-high 48 points but got little help from his Phoenix teammates as the Mavericks triumphed, 119-109, to make it 2-2 in their series.

Josh Howard collected 29 points and 10 rebounds, Dirk Nowitzki added 25 points and reserve Jerry Stackhouse 22 for the fourth-seeded Mavericks, who won game two in Phoenix but lost game three at home on Friday.

Phoenix's Amare Stoudemire, who averaged 35.7 points in the first three games, scored just 15 against Mavs center Erick Dampier. Dampier posted 13 points, 11 rebounds and four blocks and held Stoudemire to 3-of-8 shooting. *AFP*

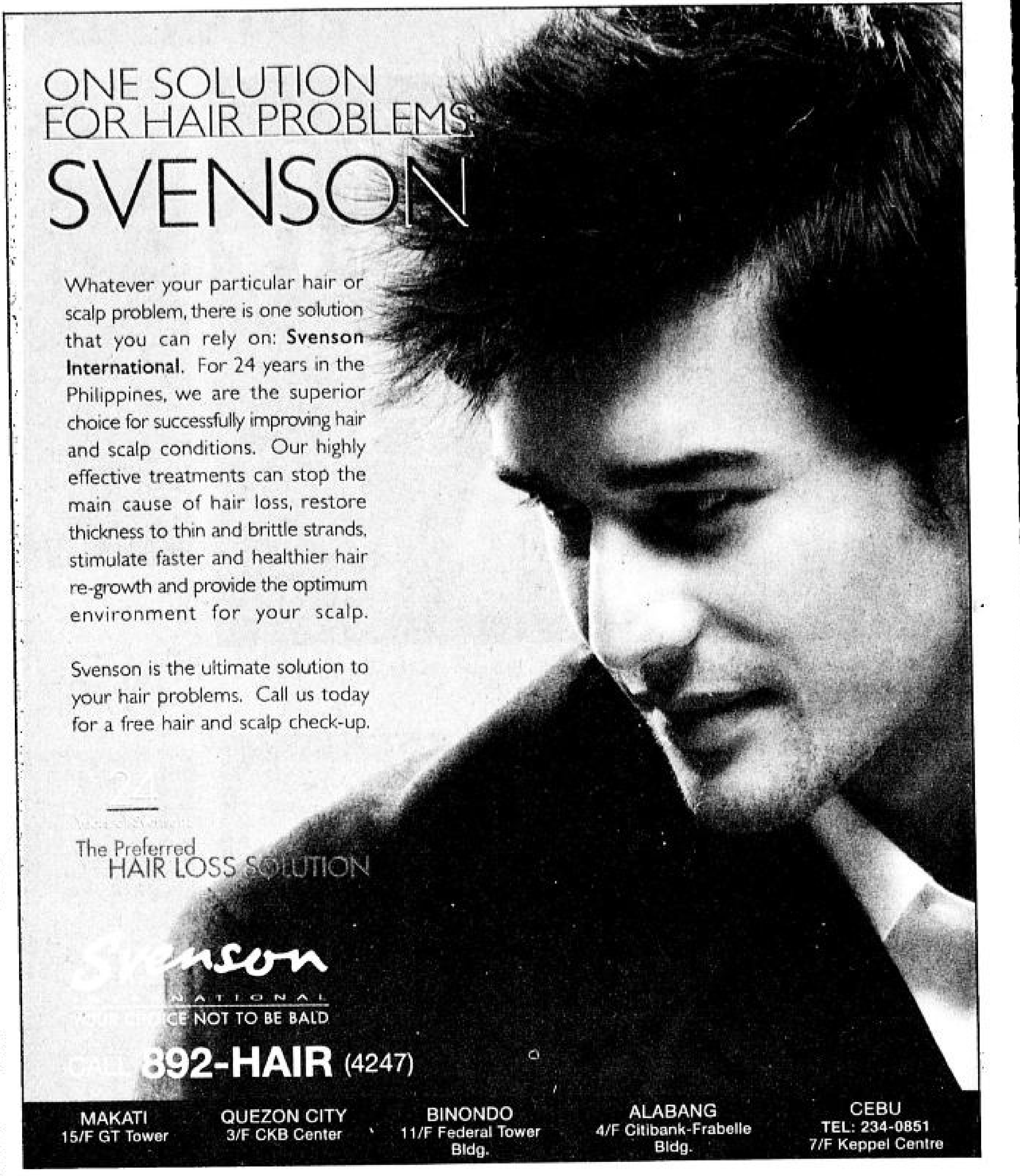
# Pistons level with Pacers

TORONTO—Chauncey Billups scored 29 points and Rasheed Wallace added 17 points and 12 rebounds as the Detroit Pistons beat the Indiana Pacers 89-76 in Game Four of their Eastern Conference semifinal in Indianapolis on Sunday.

The best-of-seven series is tied at 2-2 after the defending NBA champions dominated the latest game, leading by as many as 20 points, to bounce back from losing the last two contests.

Game Five is in Auburn Hills on Tuesday.

Richard Hamilton chipped in 13 points for the Pistons, while Antonio McDyess had 12 points and six rebounds. *Reuters*



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## *Masco lauds PE teachers, athletes*

THE MANILA Sports Council (Masco) lauded yesterday physical education teachers for the successful staging of the Palarong Pambansa as it cited the Big City bets for a job well done.

Masco chair Arnold "Ali" Atienza, a staunch supporter of the Palaro and a proponent of grassroots sports, thanked education officials, especially PE teachers, for helping push forward the staging of the games this year.

# Purdy snares 1st PGA title

IRVING, Texas—Ted Purdy won the first title of his US PGA career, firing a five-under par 65 here Sunday to win the Byron Nelson Championship and deny Vijay Singh a return to the world number one ranking.

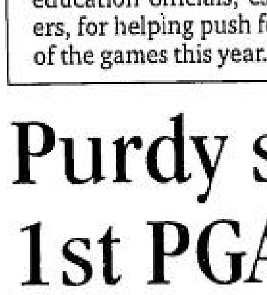
Purdy, who began the week 116th on this year's US PGA money list and 173rd in the rankings, finished 72 holes on 15 under-par 265 to defeat fellow American Sean O'Hair by one stroke at the 5.8 million-dollar event.

Fiji's Singh, needing a solo third-place effort or better to overtake Tiger Woods and reclaim the top ranking spot, settled for a share of third with Americans Bob Tway and Doug Barron on 269.

Singh bounced in the event's first ace in three years on the par-three 17th, his first hole in one in since the 1996 PGA Championship, and birdied 18 on his way to a final-round 65. *AFP*

# Annika by 10; JRo nets ₱.6M

ATLANTA, Georgia—Annika Sorenstam fired a five-under-par 67 here Sunday to polish off a 10-stroke victory at the LPGA's $1.6 million Chick-fil-A Charity Championship.



SORENSTAM AFP

Sorenstam, who started the day with a 10-shot lead, posted a 72-hole total of 23-under 265 to claim her 60th victory on the US LPGA tour.

She joined Patty Berg for third all-time in LPGA tour wins and claimed her fourth victory in five starts this year.

Defending champion Jennifer Rosales of the Philippines wound up with a 70 and finished in a tie from 26th-28th at 286. She pocketed $11,485.

Sorenstam bounced back with a vengeance after seeing her record-tying streak of five consecutive victories snapped last week at Williamsburg, Virginia.

Sorenstam obliterated the field with three bogey-free rounds, including her final 18.

She had two birdies on the front nine, including on her first hole. She closed out the victory with three birdies in her final six holes, including one at the par-five 18th that insured she kept her 10-shot edge after Taiwan's Candie Kung had fired a 65 for 13-under 275. *AFP*

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4 WEDDING DATE

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(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 ONG BAK
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 (DOLBY) HIDE AND SEEK

**Cinema 2000 Metrotown**
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 BOGGY MAN
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 (DOLBY) ONG BAK
4 (DTS) THE PACIFIER

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart**
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795 3320

1 CAN THIS BE LOVE
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 (DOLBY) SAHARA

**Lianas Cinema**
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) KID
2 TAGOS SA LAMAN
3 KIROT SA DIBDIB
4 (DTS) ALONE IN THE DARK

**Lianas MovieCity**
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) CURSED
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 (DTS) KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 TAGOS SA LAMAN
5 WEDDING DATE

**Mega Center Mall**
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 CAN THIS BE LOVE
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 (DTS) BOOGEYMAN
4 (DOLBY) ONG BAK

**Fiesta World Mall**
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

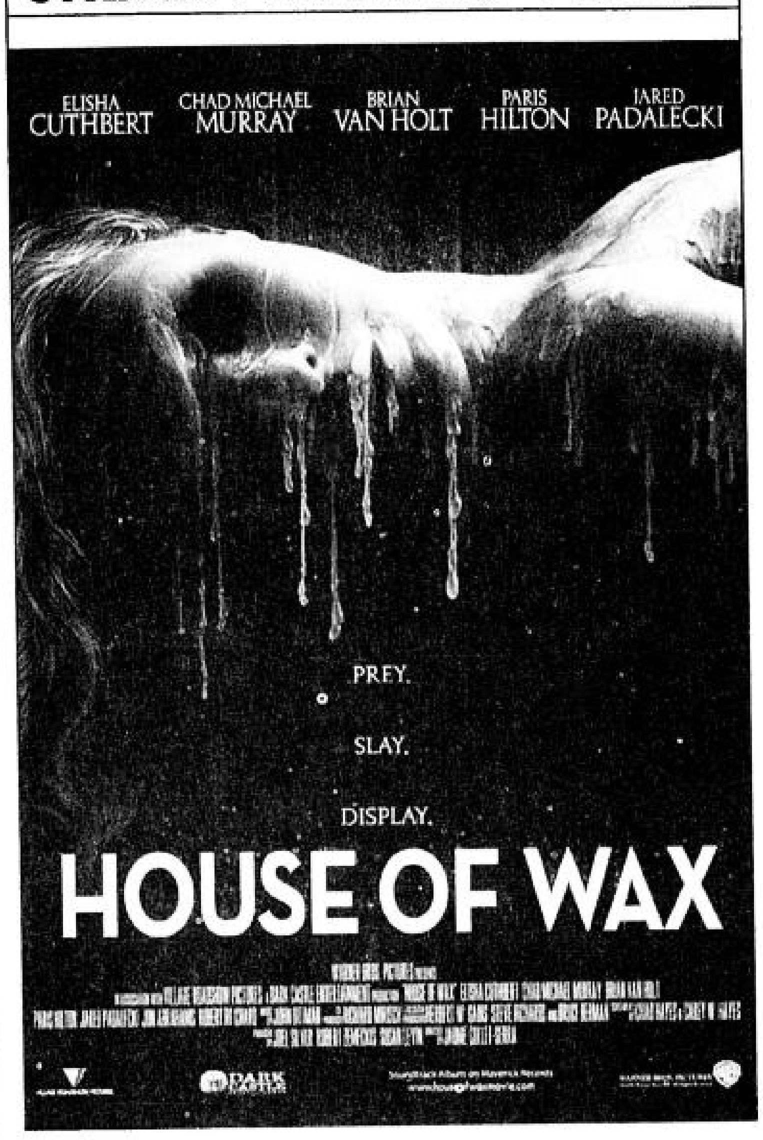
1 CAN THIS BE LOVE
2 THE PACIFIER
3 THE JACKET
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

**Berma Cinema**
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 TAGOS SA LAMAN
2 HOSTAGE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

## SNEAK PREVIEWS TODAY!



CESAR Montano: Thanks, anyway

# A Regal . . .

From page A30

the stage, where they were served wine.

Bodyguards in tailored suits patrolled the cordoned area, watching over precious pieces of jewelry from Bvlgari that were loaned to some celebrities present that night.

The media and other guests were told to occupy only tables covered with white mantles. Dinner was not served until 10 p.m., or after the awards ceremony, at Westin's Grand Ballroom, where the Director General's Ball was held.

Eight life-size and shimmering Luna statues were strategically positioned all over the place. They were replicas of the new FAP trophy, the design of which was based on a painting by Juan Luna.

### Interesting

"Is this the sister of the UP (Oblation)?" awards show host Martin Nievera commented.

Screen writer Irma Dimaranan, nominated for her work in "Naglalayag," said she came all the way from her home in Los Baños, Laguna, to attend the rites because she found it "very interesting."

"This show is well organized. I received notification of my nomination a month before the show," Dimaranan told INQUIRER Entertainment. "Not only that, they continued to send me info about what would happen in the ceremony."

Character actress Cherie Gil co-hosted the event. She interviewed big winners Trillo, Claudine Barretto ("Milan"), Jaclyn Jose ("Naglalayag") and Jay Manalo ("Aishite Imasu 1941") who were ushered to the media room, and handed them their prizes.

### Goodies

Barretto and Trillo were each given a steel-plated Solotempo watch from Bvlgari. They also get to drive, for one month, four different models of cars from BMW Philippines. Barretto also got a handbag from Yves St Laurent.

"Goodie bags" were likewise handed out to nominees. According to Dimaranan, she received items from Marlboro Classics, Nine West, Calvin Clein, Tutto Moda and Jessica.

Regine Velasquez, who performed the last number, sang to a half-filled ballroom—the stars had already been instructed to go to the poolside area to view the fireworks.

**Araneta Center Leisure Guide**

Cineplex Grand Lobby

**CINEMA SCHEDULES**

Gateway CINEPLEX 10
LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
The Country's Largest Cinema With The Widest Screen
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
ONLY P99 ADMISSION • P120 RESERVED SEATS

FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

HOUSE OF WAX
1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
AMITYVILLE HORROR
12:25 / 2:35 / 4:45 / 6:55 / 9:05
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
12:40 / 3:40 / 6:40 / 9:40
THE WEDDING DATE
1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
IN GOOD COMPANY
12:45 / 3:30 / 6:15 / 9:00

CAN THIS BE LOVE
2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00
XXX 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
1:45 / 4:15 / 6:45 / 9:15
GUESS WHO
1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 8:50

GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
Pre-Opening Screenings P 249 / P299
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00

**ALI MALL CINEMAS**

❶ KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
11:00 / 2:00 / 5:00 / 8:00
❷ CAN THIS BE LOVE
1:00 / 3:20 / 5:40 / 8:00
❸ XXX 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
12:50 / 2:45 / 4:40 / 6:35 / 8:30
❹ IN GOOD COMPANY
12:00 / 2:45 / 5:30 / 8:15
❺ HOUSE OF WAX
12:40 / 3:10 / 5:40 / 8:10

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

**ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS**

2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE *May 18*
4:45pm Talk N Text vs. San Miguel / 7:35pm Alaska vs. Sta Lucia
2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE *May 22*
4:15pm Fedex vs Coca Cola / 6:35pm Purefoods vs Sta Lucia

CARTER FASHION SHOW *May 21, Sat. 8pm*
*Paolo Bediones / Maureen Larrazabal*
ASHANTI LIVE IN MANILA
*May 26 Thursday 8pm*

**CENTER EVENTS**

| | |
|---|---|
| FOOD GALLERY & FOOD PLAZA | *Enjoy a special halo halo for only P25 with every P75 food purchase at Ali Mall Food Gallery and Farmers Plaza Food Plaza until May 31.* |
| TACO BELL | *Get a FREE Tropicana Twister with every purchase of a Meximelt and 16 oz. Pepsi at Taco Bell on the Ground Floor of Gateway Mall until June 6.* |
| FOOD EXPRESS | *For a minimum purchase of P150 at participating outlets, get two (2) FREE games at Time Zone on Level 3 of Gateway Mall until July 26.* |

LOG ON TO www. aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

DONNA Villa and Carlo J with President Arroyo

# Young diva nixes clothes sponsor

**DOLLY WOOD**

*Dolly Ann Carvajal*

GUESS list:

Guess who this newscaster/host is! Advertisers are shunning her programs because of her wild lifestyle. She is known in social circles as the favorite bedmate of different men. Versatile as she is, she commits the "crime" even without a bed! She was once caught in a football field playing with, uh, two sets of "soccer balls"! Ms. Broadcaster delivers not only headlines…

## No, thanks

Guess who this young diva is! A chic designer offered to be her clothing sponsor but the chanteuse's camp politely declined. "Thanks, but NO thanks! She can afford to pay!" said the singer's assistant.

In show biz where "ex-deal arrangements" are de rigeur (don't you just hate it when stars sound like broken records thanking their sponsors on TV—from head to foot it's courtesy of this or that brand—but off-cam, most stars wouldn't be caught dead wearing the products they endorse), Ms Diva is rare. For her the best things in life are not for free, but come with a fee!

## "Tabachingching"

**JULIUS** and **Tintin (Bersola) Babao** are fired up about the christening of their firstborn, **Antonia**, whom they fondly call "Tabachingching." It will be held May 21, 11 a.m., at Fernwood Gardens.

Tin told me that the baptism will be like a debut but with a twist. "Antonia will have a grand entrance and the 10 grandparents will have a part where they say a prayer and make a wish for her. For example Tito **Boy Abunda** will make a wish for her career since he's a talent manager," beamed the excited mom.

Aside from Boy, some of Antonia's godparents are Dr. **Vicki Belo**, **Korina Sanchez**, **Gabby Lopez**, **Robin Padilla**, **Nina Corpuz**, **Ogie Diaz** and **Bernadette Sembrano**, to name a few. There are 24 *ninong* and 25 *ninang* in all, including high school friends of the well-loved morning show couple.

Can you just imagine what Antonia's real debut would be like? Knowing Tintin, she is already thinking of that big event.

## CC's "KKK"

THE TEMPERATURE soared to 42 C in the SRO preview room. Quite unusual for a sneak preview of a telemovie. It's a PCSO presentation, "KKK (Krusada Kontra Krimen)" written and directed by **Carlo J. Caparas** with mega-producer **Donna Villa** as project consultant. The indefatigable couple never run out of ways to improve not just the movie industry but the state of the nation as well.

Says Ms. Donna: "KKK aims to help prevent criminality, and will give jobs to actors in need of assignments these days, when there's a slump in the movie industry due to piracy."

KKK banners big names in our law enforcement agencies. We'll witness Sec. **Angelo Reyes** of the DILG perform his darn best to re-enact one of the resolved kidnapping cases. We'll also see NBI Director **Reynaldo Wycoco** exchange witty lines with an actress playing the role of a young widow of an NBI asset killed while on duty. Catch **Gen. Efren Abu** (AFP chief) and **Gen. Arturo Lumibao** (PNP chief) as they narrate the story of a heinous crime.

The tele-movie is a must-see. It was launched yesterday (May 16) on IBC 13 and will be replayed on other government channels and the INC Channel, which airs worldwide.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the mom of **Chin-Chin Gutierrez** used to be a nun in Italy (Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, for nine years)? Chin-chin is a colloquial way of saying "Cheers to life" in Italian. She says, smiling: "I wouldn't have been born if my mom remained a nun, so I'm really a cause for celebration. Imagine hearing my name every time a toast is made in parties!"

JUST ASKING:

What will happen to the three batches of ABS-CBN Foundation employees if "Sineskwela" is axed?

*(For feedback, e-mail wateringholeshangri-la@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaith-band.com)*

SHANG CINEPLEX

① KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
MTRCB PG-13
12:55, 4.00, 7:05, 10:10

② HOUSE OF WAX
MTRCB: R-13
11:25, 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:50

③ AMITYVILLE HORROR
MTRCB: R-13
11:55, 2:15, 4:35, 6:55, 9:15

④ IN GOOD COMPANY
MTRCB PG-13
11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10

PREMIERE THEATRE THE INTERPRETER
MTRCB. PG-13 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Get Your Star Wars Movie Tickets Now!

Be one of the first to catch the simultaneous U.S. screening of Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith at the Shang Cineplex on May 18! Premiere screening starts at 10:00pm.

Advance tickets* for sale at no extra service fee from May 6, 2005 onwards. Available at the Shang Cineplex ticket counters at Level 6 and the ticket booth at Level 1.

* Selected screenings from May 18-22

Regular Ticket Price
Cinemas 1 to 4 - P150
Premiere Theatre - P295 (includes unlimited popcorn and beverage)
Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 / 633-4735 for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
Voted Best Movie Theater
-Philippine Daily Inquirer's 2004 Yearend Reader Survey
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 IN GOOD COMPANY
11:00, 2:00, 5:00
8:00, 11:00
PG-13

2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
10:50, 1:35, 4:20
7:05, 11:00
PG-13

3 AMITYVILLE HORROR
12:55, 3:20, 5:45
8:10, 10:35
R-13

4 HOUSE OF WAX
SNEAK PREVIEW
12:30, 3:05, 5:40
8:15, 10:50
R 13

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| THE INTERPRETER<br>PG13<br>11:45,2:15,4:45,7:15,9:45 | IN GOOD COMPANY<br>PG13<br>12:50,3:10,5.30,7:50,10:10 | HOUSE OF WAX<br>R13<br>12:30,2:55,5:20,7:45,10:10 |
| AMITYVILLE HORROR<br>R13<br>1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05 | HEAD IN THE CLOUDS<br>R13<br>12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:15 | KINGDOM OF HEAVEN<br>PG13<br>1:20,4:20,7.20,10:20 |

star group of cinemas movie guide
IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA-SHAW
Tel. No. 726.61.50
3 Tagos sa Laman
4 Kingdom of Heaven
5 XXX 2
Kids Fun Day Live!
Starmall Edsa May 15 Sun
4pm Activity Area (2nd level)

METROPOLIS ALABANG star
Tel. No. 850.42.85
1 Amityville
2 Tagos sa Laman
3 Under Renovation
4 Under Renovation
5 Kingdom of Heaven
6 XXX 2

starmall LAS PIÑAS
Tel. No. 873.50.04
1 Alone In the Dark
2 Rental Reservation
ABS CBN Goin Bulilit Live!
Metropolis Alabang May 15 Sun.
2pm at the Trade Hall (4th level)

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
*a landmark reinvented!*
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN - 10:30, 1:25, 4:20 (PG13) SNEAK PREVIEW HOUSE OF WAX - 7:15 & 10PM (R13)

CINEMA 2 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR - R13 11:10, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS
*...a dinetertainment for all!*
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 COMING SOON STARWARS III - MAY 19 GP

CINEMA 4 COMING SOON STARWARS III - MAY 19 GP

CINEMA 5 COMING SOON STARWARS III - MAY 19 GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM
May 27 & 28, 2005 NINA "Just Wanna Have FUN" 9:00PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

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STAR WARS
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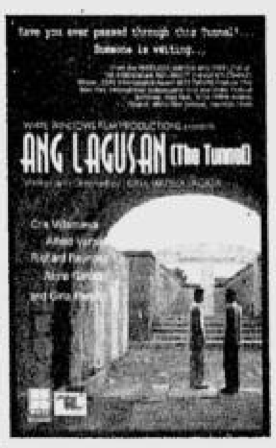
smcinemaexclusive



From the producers of the International critically aclaimed film "Sa Kandungan ng Langit" (Best Drama Feature Film award, New York International Independent Film And Video Festival 2004 and Winner, Remi platinum award to the World Film Festival, Houston, Texas) comes another rivetingtale about a man in search for his true identity in "Ang Lagusan".

Watch this enthralling Digital Film starring Cris Villanueva, Gina pareño and Alfred Vargas. Showing exclusively at SM Mega Mall

GUARANTEED SEATS

the podium cinema
1. IN GOOD COMPANY
[illegible]
2. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
[illegible]
633-8976

sm megamall cinema 1
THE INTERPRETER
12:30 LFS / 1:30 MF / 4:00 / 6:30
9:00 LFS / 9:40 LMF / 11:50 END
633-1901

sm cebu cinema
CINEMA 1: THE INTERPRETER
11:20 FS / 11:30 MF / 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00
9:07 LFS / 9:30 LMF / 11:40 END
CINEMA 3: KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
11:20 FS / 11:30 MF / 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00
9:25 LFS / 9:30 LMF / 11:55 END
(032) 231-3876

METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 THE INTERPRETER
2 AMITYVILLE HORROR
3 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
4 HOUSE OF THE WAX
5 CAN THIS BE LOVE
6 ANG LAGUSAN
7 RESERVED
8 RESERVED
9 RESERVED
10 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
11 TRUMPETS
12 IN GOOD COMPANY

sm city fairview
1 THE INTERPRETER
2 SAHARA
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
5 CAN THIS BE LOVE
6 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
7 HOUSE OF WAX
8 THE PACIFIER
9 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
10 GUESS WHO
11 SAMARA: RING 2
12 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL

sm city north edsa
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
3 RESERVED
4 CAN THIS BE LOVE
5 ARE WE THERE YET?
6 IN GOOD COMPANY
7 HOUSE OF WAX
8 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL

sm city sta. mesa
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 HOUSE OF WAX
3 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED
6 POOH HEFFALUMP MOVIE
7 CAN THIS BE LOVE
8 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
9 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
10 IN GOOD COMPANY

sm city southmall
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
4 HOUSE OF WAX
5 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
6 SIX
7 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
8 CAN THIS BE LOVE
9 IN GOOD COMPANY
10 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL

sm city manila
1 HOUSE OF WAX
2 AMITYVILLE HORROR
3 IN GOOD COMPANY
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
5 THE WEDDING DATE
6 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
7 GUESS WHO
8 SIX
9 CAN THIS BE LOVE
10 SAHARA
11 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
12 SAMARA: RING 2

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat
1 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
2 HOUSE OF WAX
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 IN GOOD COMPANY

sm city bicutan
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 IN GOOD COMPANY
3 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
4 HOUSE OF WAX

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 GUESS WHO
3 CAN THIS BE LOVE
4 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
5 SAHARA
6 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS

sm city baguio
1 THE INTERPRETER
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 SAHARA

sm city batangas
1 THE PACIFIER
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 SAHARA

sm city marilao
1 SAHARA
2 GUESS WHO
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS

sm city bacoor
1 SAMARA: RING 2
2 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
5 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
6 CAN THIS BE LOVE
7 SIX
8 SAHARA

sm city dasmariñas
1 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 SAHARA

sm city lucena
1 SAHARA
2 THE PACIFIER
3 CAN THIS BE LOVE
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

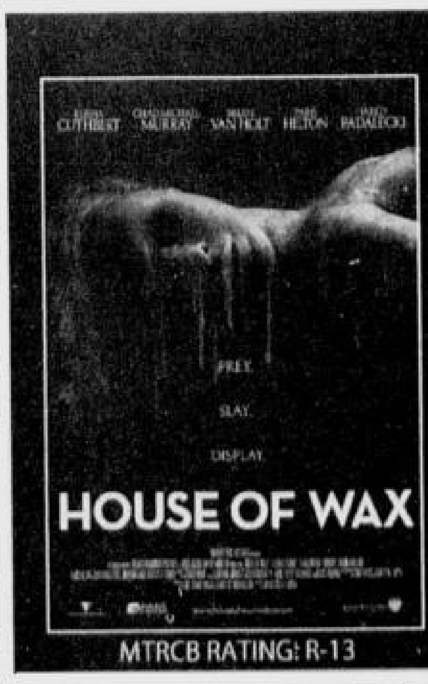
sm city cebu
1 THE INTERPRETER
2 RESERVED
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 GUESS WHO
5 THE WEDDING DATE
6 CURSED
7 CAN THIS BE LOVE
8 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR

sm city iloilo
1 THE PACIFIER
2 RESERVED
3 CAN THIS BE LOVE
4 SAHARA
5 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
6 GUESS WHO
7 RESERVED
8 THE WEDDING DATE

sm city davao
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
3 CAN THIS BE LOVE
4 GUESS WHO
5 THE INTERPRETER
6 FINDING NEVERLAND

sm city cagayan de oro
1 SAHARA
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE



MTRCB RATING: R-13

Warner Bros. Pictures and SM Cinema invite you to the
Sneak Preview of HOUSE OF WAX™
MAY 17-18, 2005
SM North Edsa, Megamall Manila, Sta. Mesa, Fairview Bacoor, Bicutan, Sucat, Southmall and The Podium
Regular showing on May 25, 2005

## ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

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**FOR ALL BRANCHES**

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

### GALLERIA
632-9115/16

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN • THX
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

2 AMITYVILLE HORROR
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

3 THE INTERPRETER
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

5 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
10:45 1:35 4:25 7:15 10:00

6 IN GOOD COMPANY
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

7 HOUSE OF WAX
Sneak Preview

8 THE WEDDING DATE
1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00

9 GUESS WHO?
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

10 THE PACIFIER
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

### ERMITA
536-7809 to 12

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
10:30 1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50

2 HOUSE OF WAX
Sneak Preview

3 AMITYVILLE HORROR
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

4 THE WEDDING DATE
10:20 12:15 2:10 4:05 6:00 7:55 10:00

5 XXX 2
11:05 1:15 3:25 5:35 7:45 10:00

6 IN GOOD COMPANY
11:05 1:15 3:25 5:35 7:45 10:00

7 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

### METRO EAST
682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE WEDDING DATE
11:55 2:10 4:25 6:40 9:00

2 ASTERIX AND OBELIX
12:10 2:20 4:30 6:40 9:00

3 THE INTERPRETER
11:20 1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00

4 GUESS WHO?
11:30 1:50 4:10 6:30 9:00

5 XXX 2
11:00 1:50 4:20 6:40 9:10

6 AMITYVILLE HORROR
11:30 1:50 4:20 6:40 9:10

7 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
10:55 1:55 4:55 7:55 10:30

8 HOUSE OF WAX
Sneak Preview

### NOVALICHES
935-3229/31

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
11:20 2:20 5:20 8:25

2 XXX 2
12:00 1:55 4:05 6:15 8:30

3 AMITYVILLE HORROR
11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:25

4 GUESS WHO?
12:50 3:20 5:50 8:25

5 HOUSE OF WAX
Sneak Preview

6 RESERVE

7 RESERVE

8 RESERVE

### PIONEER
687-5378

1 IN GOOD COMPANY
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 HOUSE OF WAX Sneak Preview
4 AMITYVILLE HORROR

### CITISQUARE MALABON
288-2575

1 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
2 XXX 2
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 THE JACKET

### CAINTA
240-4881

1 XXX 2
2 HOUSE OF WAX Sneak Preview
3 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

**STAR WARS**
**EPISODE III**
REVENGE OF THE SITH

Opens on MAY 18

**ADVANCE TICKET SELLING**
no more waiting...no more queueing
GET YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE!!!
at *Galleria, Ermita and Metro East*

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE
AT THE TICKET BOOTH
FROM MAY 11 to 22

### STA. ROSA
(049) 837-0907

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 THE JACKET
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 CURSED
5 BOSO

### LIPA
(043) 757-3664
(043) 312-5670

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 THE PACIFIER
3 OK KA PARE KO
4 THE JACKET
5 SAHARA

### DASMARIÑAS
(046) 852-2125
(046) 416-4332

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 CURSED
3 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
4 BOSO
5 XXX 2

### ANGELES
(045) 892-2348

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 THE WEDDING DATE
3 THE JACKET
4 GUESS WHO?

### IMUS
(046) 875-3838
(046) 471-8188

1 TAGOS SA LAMAN
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 SIX
4 XXX 2
5 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
6 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE

### STARMILLS
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(045) 961-5270

1 XXX 2
2 SAHARA
3 GUESS WHO?
4 ASTERIX AND OBELIX
5 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
6 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

### BACOLOD
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(034) 441-0459

1 THE WEDDING DATE
2 ALONE IN THE DARK
3 SAHARA
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
5 XXX 2
6 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS

### ILOILO
(033) 336-8070

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 XXX 2
3 PARAISO
4 GUESS WHO?
5 SAHARA
6 THE WEDDING DATE

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AYALA CENTER
GLORIETTA • GREENBELT

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

AYALA CENTER
CEBU

AYALA MALLS
Lovemall!

May 22, 5 pm Glorietta Activity Center
**ROOSTER LIVE!**

## At the Activity Center

| GLORIETTA | ALABANG TOWN CENTER | AYALA CENTER CEBU |
|---|---|---|
| Automatic Center Appliance Exhibit<br>May 9-20, 2005 | AV Surfer Exhibit<br>May 9-22, 2005 | Fitness First Body Jam & Body Pump Demo<br>May 16, 2005 |

AYALA
GREENBELT

**Greenbelt Al Fresco Theaters presents**
**Saturday Night Fever**
May 20&21, 2005

GREENBELT'S
Onstage
AYALA CENTER

**The Hitmakers Back Again**
**w/ Rico J. Puno, Haji Alejandro & Marco Sison**
**May 13 (Friday) 8:00 PM**
**For inquiries, please call 891-5610**

Ayala MUSEUM

**Visit the New Ayala Museum located beside Greenbelt 4 along Makati Avenue.**
For inquiries, please call 757-7117.

## AYALA CINEMAS

AYALA CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G1 GLORIETTA 1 | 1 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR | 2 XXX 2 | 3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN | 4 CAN THIS BE LOVE |
| G4 GLORIETTA 4 | 1 IN GOOD COMPANY | 2 XXX 2 | 3 THX KINGDOM OF HEAVEN 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| | 4 SHATTERED GLASS | 5 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS | 6 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR | 7 GUESS WHO |
| GB1 GREENBELT 1 | 1 IN GOOD COMPANY | 2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN | | |
| GB3 GREENBELT 3 | 1 THX THE AMITYVILLE HORROR GUARANTEED SEATS | 2 THX KINGDOM OF HEAVEN GUARANTEED SEATS | | |
| | 3 THE INTERPRETER GUARANTEED SEATS | 4 THE WEDDING DATE GUARANTEED SEATS | 5 IN GOOD COMPANY GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER | 1 THX KINGDOM OF HEAVEN | 2 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR | | |
| | 3 IN GOOD COMPANY | 4 GUESS WHO | 5 HEAD IN THE CLOUDS | |
| ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU | 1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN | 2 GUESS WHO | 3 THE INTERPRETER | 4 THE CURSED |

2 DAYS TO GO

BUY YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE NOW!

Visit our ticketbooths in
Onstage - Greenbelt 1
Glorietta 4 • Greenbelt 3
Alabang Town Center
Ayala Center Cebu
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For online reservations, log on to www.sureseats.com

MTRCB Rating: General Audience (G)

AYALA CINEMAS

OPENS MAY 19

Stargazing at the Glorietta 1
Lovemall!

MEET & GREET the stars of
**BIKINI OPEN**
May 18 (Wednesday) 6:00 PM
Glorietta 1 Cinema Lobby

**FREE Picture Taking & Autograph Signing**
with the stars for the first thirty (30) moviegoers who will present their BIKINI OPEN movietickets at the Glorietta 1 cinema customer service booth on May 18.

The film BIKINI OPEN is set to open on May 18 at Ayala Cinemas.

YES!
SMOKEYS

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service text hotline: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

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All-Digital Cinemas

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Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
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Free Seating Cinemas: P70.00

① The Wedding Date
② XXX 2
③ Can This Be Love
④ Head in the Clouds

Guaranteed Seats Cinemas: P90.00

⑤ In Good Company
⑥ The Amityville Horror
⑦ Kingdom Of Heaven

## EVENTS! EVENTS!

MARKET! MARKET!

ALOHA YO
Featuring music from
Disney's
Lilo & Stitch
ISLAND FAVORITES
May 14, 4 pm and 6 pm
Activity Center

Catch Lilo's summer musical show featuring Bea Binene as LILO, Chynna Ortaleza and Nadine Samonte as NANI, Dion Ignacio and Tyrone Perez as DAVID, Paul Salas as DANIEL. Plus the SOP Boys Emil and Yexel.

Directed by: Freddie Santos

Reserved seats on a first-come, first-serve basis for shoppers who present P300 worth of receipts on May 13.

SALE! SALE!

Time to Harvest the Best Deals

May 13 10am-12mn
May 14 10am-12mn
May 15 10am-9pm

# Orlando Bloom as the perfect knight

## VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FOR some years now, **Orlando Bloom** has been playing second-lead roles in major productions, biding his time before attaining his own stellar orbit. That golden time has come for Bloom by way of **Ridley Scott**'s new epic, "Kingdom of Heaven," where the young actor plays a "lowly" blacksmith named Balian, who eventually becomes a knight, a lord, a Crusader, and then the Defender of Jerusalem.

The film begins in France in 1104, with Balian meeting his father, Baron Godfrey of Ibelin (**Liam Neeson**) for the first time. Events conspire to bring Godfrey's initially reluctant illegitimate son to Jerusalem, which Arab leader Salahudin is planning to reclaim from the Christian Crusaders.

**ORLANDO** Bloom

Some leaders of the Christian forces soon reveal their true, concupiscent colors, so the hatred against them escalates into the long siege of Jerusalem. It's a good thing that, under the tutelage of his father, Balian has become the perfect knight and leader whose, sterling example motivates his men to become more courageous than they ever thought they could be.

He also impresses Salahuddin himself, who vows to be magnanimous in victory, just as Balian has proven himself triumphant in defeat.

> All told, 'Kingdom of Heaven' is eminently viewable

Scott's film is full of such provocative conundrums and seeming contradictions, like the conflict between service to God and some Crusaders' lust for money and power.

But, when all is said and done, Balian's principles remain steadfast, and this provides the epic production with the heroic stature it needs to rise to its appropriately inspiring climax.

To be sure, the story of the Crusades is too complex to be adequately dealt with in this feature film's running time of a little over two hours.

Some key developments and historical connections are glossed over, and fictive plot inventions like a romance between Balian and Arab princess Sybilla provide more distractions.

All told, however, the film is eminently viewable for its insights into human nature, its panoramic and yet detailed battle sequences, and its emphatically emotional approach, which makes the production much more than just a pseudo-documentary, historical set-piece.

As for Bloom, he may not be as physically compelling as some other leads of action epics, but his innate sensitivity serves his "perfect knight" character well. It imbues Balian with the nobility of spirit that is his birthright, and the thematic jewel in the film's many-splendored crown.

### 'Monkey Business 7'

LAST May 9, "Monkey Business 7" started airing on Animal Planet at 5:30 p.m. The seventh season of the popular show on the day-to-day lives of apes and monkeys offers these new features:

Today at 5:30 p.m., Episode 6: Chimp youngsters Ben and Pip brave the big outdoors. Home improvements get the chimpanzees excited, but the orangutans take it in stride. Viewers catch up with acrobatic chimp Simon and rejoin Jim and Alison 6,000 miles away in Cambodia.

Tomorrow, Episode 7: In Cambodia, Jim and Alison head north to investigate reports of gibbons being illegally held on floating zoos. Home in Dorset, Spanish chimp Alberto meets another member of the bachelor boys. The outcome of four-year-old chimp Johni's operation is revealed. And there's medical concern over three-year-old Tutti.

Nickelodeon Networks was awarded eight Beacon awards, more than any other network, for its pro-social campaigns. Sponsored by the Cable Television Public Affairs Association (CTPAA), the Beacon Awards competition recognizes excellence in public affairs throughout the cable industry.

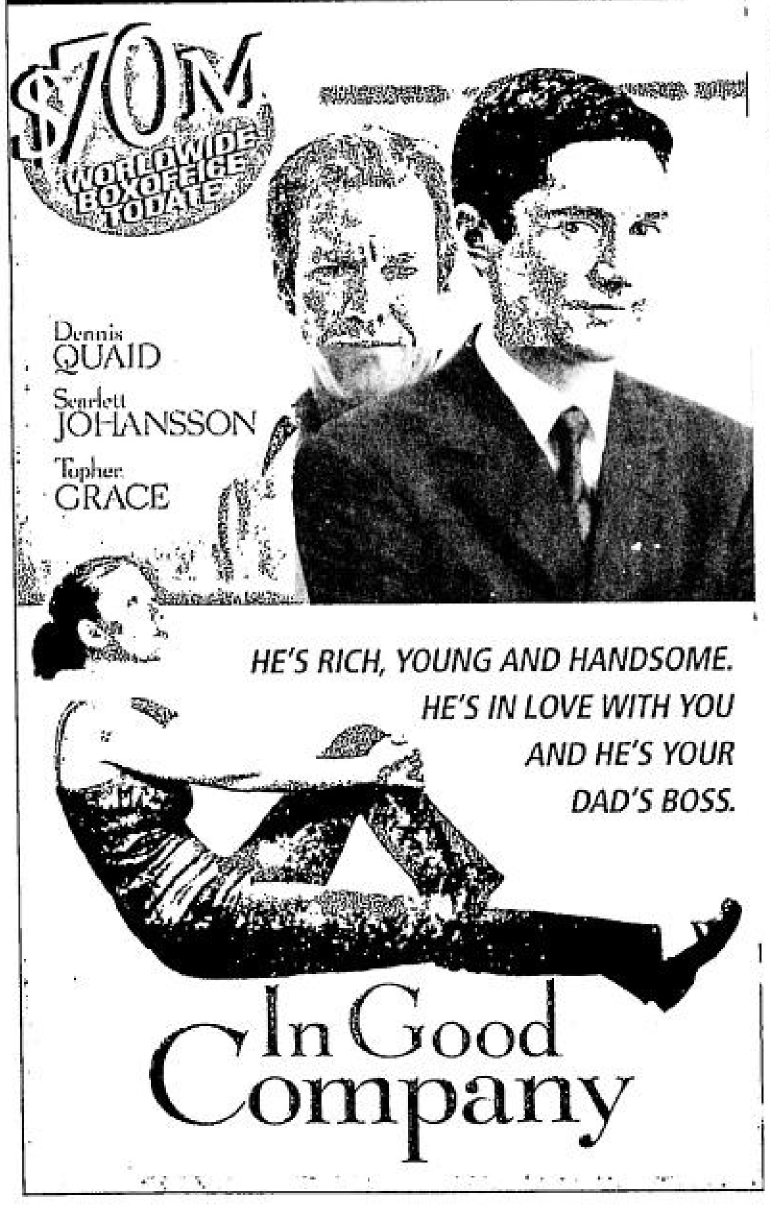
In particular, Nickelodeon's "Let's Just Play" won four Beacon Awards, and was also a 2005 Golden Beacon Award Finalist. Other awards were for Nick Nite/TV Land and, from the N, "A Walk in Your Shoes: Living with HIV/AIDS" and "I Sit Where I Want: The Legacy of Brown vs Board of Education."

MTRCB ▶ R-13
OPENS TOMORROW
From the team that created box-office and critical-hit BRIDAL SHOWER, comes a fresh and bitingly funny satirical take on Filipino beauty contests.
FUNNIER THAN "BRIDAL SHOWER"!
CHERRY PIE PICACHE
DIANA ZUBIRI
FRANCINE PRIETO
NINA RICCI ALAGAO
RAFAEL ROSELL
ALFRED VARGAS
J.E. SISON
guests RICKY DAVAO
MICHAEL DE MESA
RODEL VELAYO
TIM YAP
& MARISSA DELGADO

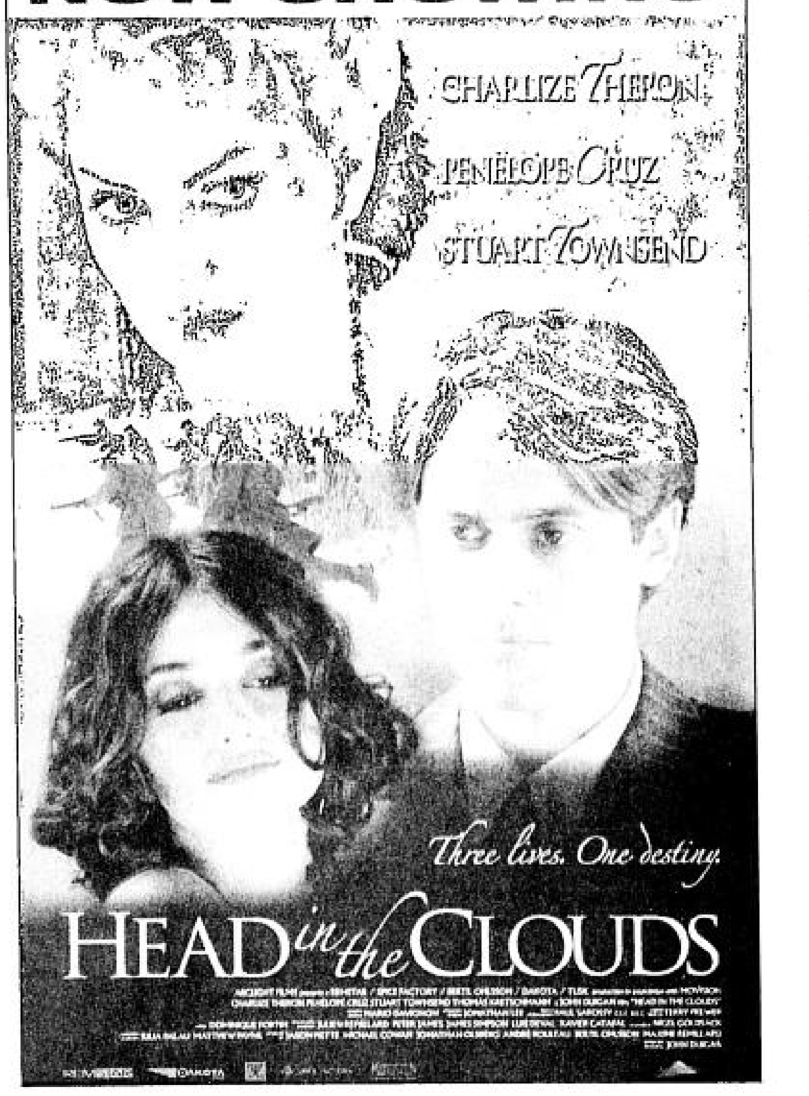
Bikini open

SEIKO Films presentation Directed by JEFFREY JETURIAN

NOW SHOWING
A PERFECT DATE MOVIE!



NOW SHOWING



MTRCB ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
The Film that Terrified Manila!
NOW SHOWING
THE FIRST FULLY DOCUMENTED CASE OF DEMONIC POSSESSION

ON November 13, 1973, police received a frantic phone call that led them to a night-marish crime scene at the Defeo residence in Amityville, Long Island - an entire family had been murdered in their beds while they slept. The murderer, Ronald Defeo confessed to killing his parents and four siblings, saying "demonic spirits" in the house possessed him and drove him to the massacre.

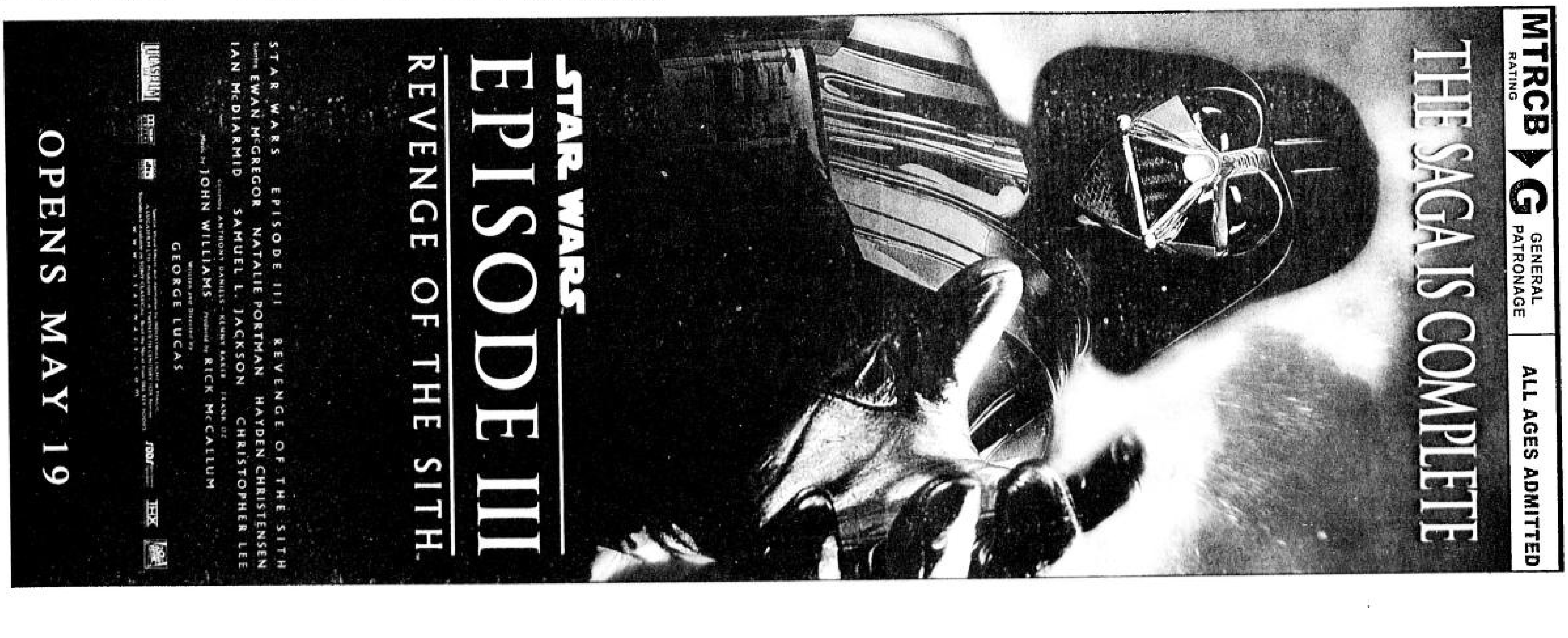
One year later, the new house owners, George and Kathy Lutz and their children moved into the house thinking it would be their dream home.

What happened next inside this haunted house will shock you to no end.

28 days after moving in, the Lutzes abandoned the residence-lucky to escape with their lives.

THIS IS THEIR TRUE STORY.

THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
RYAN REYNOLDS MELLISA GEORGE
MIRAMAX



STAR WARS
EPISODE III
REVENGE OF THE SITH.
STAR WARS EPISODE III REVENGE OF THE SITH
EWAN McGREGOR NATALIE PORTMAN HAYDEN CHRISTENSEN
IAN McDIARMID SAMUEL L. JACKSON CHRISTOPHER LEE
JOHN WILLIAMS RICK McCALLUM
GEORGE LUCAS
OPENS MAY 19
THE SAGA IS COMPLETE
MTRCB RATING ▶ G GENERAL PATRONAGE
ALL AGES ADMITTED

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Text us your feedback: Inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

LORNA Tolentino and stepson Mark Anthony Fernandez present the Best Supporting Actor Award.

LILY Monteverde: "I don't make money."

# A Regal turnaround

## ... and other Luna-winning scenes at the Academy awards

**By Marinel R. Cruz**
*Photos by Rudy Esperas*

REGAL Entertainment producer Lily Monteverde on Saturday accepted the Best Picture Award from the Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP) for "Aishite Imasụ 1941," a film she earlier insisted she "had nothing to do with."

"Aishite Imasu 1941," produced by BasFilms Production, was one of four entries to the 2004 Metro Manila Film Festival all said to be Monteverde's productions. The three others were "Sigaw," identified as a production of MegaVision (which claimed to be an independent outfit); "So Happy Together" of Regal Entertainment' and "Mano Po 3" of MAQ Productions, known to be a sister company of Regal.

In an earlier interview, Monteverde said: "At no time has Regal Entertainment or any member of the Monteverde family been a stockholder of [BasFilms and MegaVision]. They are bona fide companies that Regal Entertainment Inc. has nothing to do with."

But on Saturday, even Luna Best Actor Dennis Trillo, who played the role of a gay spy working for Filipino guerrillas in "Aishite Imasu 1941," thanked Monteverde for including him in the cast.

In her own acceptance speech, Monteverde urged other producers and filmmakers to keep the industry alive by making more films. "I have been a movie fan since I was young," she recalled."I used to go to Luneta Park to watch the actors while they were shooting. Now I'm a producer myself. And although I don't make money anymore from producing films, I still make movies."

### The Red Carpet

Celebrities started arriving at the Harbour Garden Tent of the Westin Philippine Plaza at 5:15 p.m. First group of stars was comprised of "Santa Santita" director Laurice Guillen, actors Johnny Delgado, Angelica Panganiban, John Prats, Mark Herras and Aubrey Miles. Ushers and usherettes led them to a cordoned area in front of

A REGAL/ A26

JAY Manalo, Best Supporting Actor

DENNIS Trillo, Best Actor

JACLYN Jose, Best Supporting Actress

BEST Actress Claudine Barretto with fiance Raymart Santiago

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

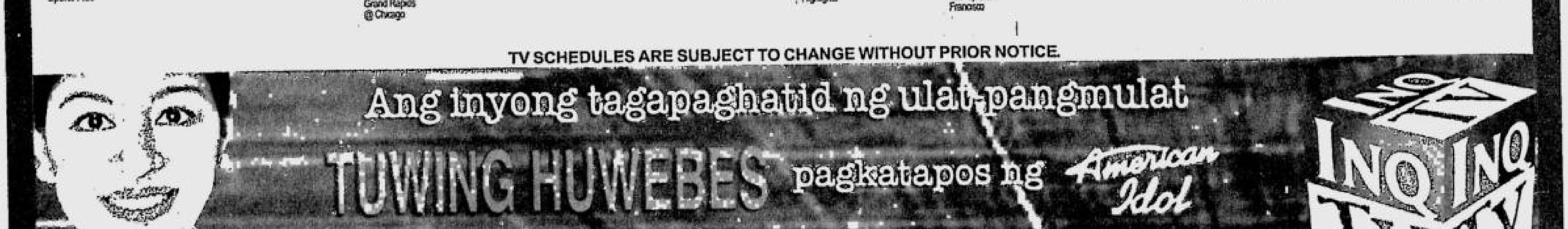
TV GUIDE

TUESDAY 7:30 PM and 10:00 PM
WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY 7:00 PM and 10:00 PM
American Idol
ABC iba tayo
SPECIAL SCHEDULE THIS WEEK!

ClickTheCity.com

| Channel | 2:30PM | 3:00PM | 3:30PM | 4:00PM | 4:30PM | 5:00PM | 5:30PM | 6:00PM | 6:30PM | 7:00PM | 7:30PM | 8:00PM | 8:30PM | 9:00PM | 9:30PM | 10:00PM | 10:30PM | 11:00PM | 11:30PM |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ABS-CBN 2 | Kapamilya Cinema | | | | Showbiz No. 1 (4.25.PM) | Yu-Gi-Oh! (5.10.PM) | Naruto (5.35.PM) | Vidjoking | Opids | TV Patrol World | | Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit | Hiram | Memories Of Bali | Stained Glass | Bora | | | Insider |
| ABC 5 | Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko | EZ Shop | Anime Ring Kaisho | | | | Sentro | Lizzie Mcguire | Three Blind Dates | | Wow Mali | | Big News | The Probe Team Documentaries | | Billboard On-Air | | | |
| GMA 7 | Saang Sulok Ng Langit | Now and Forever | Glass Shoes | One Piece | Knockout | Sorcerer Orphen | Sweet Eighteen | 24 Oras | | Extra Challenge | | Darna | Encantadia (8.45.PM) | All About Eve (9.15.PM) | | Bahay Mo Ba 'To? | | | Saksi |
| RPN 9 | Metro TV Shopping | | | Hey Arnold! | As Told By Ginger | Wild Thornberries | Sponge Bob | Scare Tactics | The Ring | Cold Cases | | Medium | | Cold Case | | Newswatch Now | Tuesday Night Treat | | |
| IBC 13 | | Lifestyle | | EZ Shop | | Home Shopping Network | IBC Express Balita | Pangarap Kong Jackpot | | Home Shopping Network | | Japan 9-Ball Men's Finals | | | | | IBC News Tonite | Up Close And Personal | |
| JackTV | Just For Laughs | Just For Laughs | Hip Hop Nation | WWE Bottomline | | WWE Afterburn | | X-Play | Banzai | Mad TV | | Trigger Happy TV | Primetime Glick | South Park | The Daily Show With Jon Stewart | Stripperella | Family Guy | Wwe Heat | |
| Nickelodeon | Blues Clues | Rugrats | The Fairly Odd Parents | SpongeBob SquarePants | All That | Are You Afraid of the Dark? | 100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd | The Amanda Show | The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron | Fairly Odd Parents | SpongeBob SquarePants | As Told By Ginger | Yakkity Yak | Chalkzone | Rocket Power | Hey Arnold! | The Wild Thornberrys | The Angry Beavers | Rugrats |
| MYX | | Urban MYX | MYX Backtrax | Pop MYX | OPM MYX | Take 5 | My MYX | MYX Daily Top Ten | | Mellow MYX | Rock MYX | Pop MYX | Urban MYX | Top Of The Pops | MYX Remakes | My MYX | MYX Backtrax | OPM MYX | Mellow MYX |
| ETC | | Good Morning Miami | Knock First | Blind Date | Fifth Wheel | Elimidate | Change of Heart | Seinfeld | Ambush Makeover | JKX | Simple Life | One Tree Hill | | Who Wants To Marry My Dad 2 | | Entertainment Tonight | The Insider | The Tonight Show With Jay Leno | |
| Cinema One | | Tatlo Lang Dar Walang Personalan | | | | Babae Sa Bintana | | | | Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon | | | | Pinay Pie | | | | Ovosodo | |
| Studio 23 | | | | PBL Game 2 | | | | Ragnarok | Project Arms | Wazzup Wazzup | Angel | | | Smallville | | News Central | Oprah | | The Men's Room |
| AXN | | CSI: Miami (Season II) | | CSI: Miami (Season II) | | Gensomaden Saiyuki | Gensomaden Saiyuki | Pensacola (Season III) | | Alias (Season II) | | Ripley's Believe It or Not | | CSI: NY (Season I) | | The Amazing Race 7 | | AXN Shakedown | |
| Star World | Frasier | The Bold & The Beautiful | | Hollywood Squares | Home Improvement | Buffy The Vampire Slayer | | The Simpsons | The Drew Carey Show | Star News Asia | Friends | Charmed | | Wild Card/Miss USA 2005 | | Miss Match | | Friends | Charmed |
| CNN | | | | Business International | | Larry King Live | | World News | World Sport | Business International | | World News Asia | | World News | World Sport | World News Asia | | World News | World Sport |
| National Geographic | | Air Crash Investigation | | Seconds From Disaster | | Interpol Investigates | | Egypt Detectives: Mystery Of The First Egyptians | Africa From The Ground Up | Wow | | About Asia | | National Geographic Specials | | Air Crash Investigation | | Seconds From Disaster | |
| Solar Sports | | | | | | Boxing: Trinidad vs. Wright | | | GWS Ep.18-2005 | | | GWS Ep.19-2005 | Sports Desk | NBA Playoffs Semi-finals Game4 | | | | | Destination Finals |
| Lifestyle Network | Secret Gardens | The Fix | Mission Organization | Carol Duvall | Molto Mario | Hot Off The Grill | Good Eats | Extreme Cuisine | Unwrapped | Passion For Dessert | Second Look | | Look For Less | Life & Style | | Clean House | | Road & Track | Back To Basics |
| HBO | | Empire (2.50.PM) | | | Beverly Hills Ninja | | | Presumed Innocent | | | | Indiana Jones And The Tempe Of Doom (8.05.PM) | | | | Six Feet Under 48: Grinding The Corn | Bad Boys (10.45PM) | | |
| Star Movies | Desperately Seeking Susan | | | Luck (4:15.PM) | | | Made Up (5.45.PM) | | | | Man In The Mirror (7.25.PM) | | | Hope Springs | | | My Cousin Vinny (10.35PM) | | |
| Cartoon Network | Scooby-Doo Show | The All New Popeye Show | | Tom & Jerry Show | The Woody Woodpecker Show | Ed, Edd N Eddy | Mucha Lucha! | X-Men Evolution | Static Shock | Gundam Wing | Shaman King | Looney Tunes Show | | The Powerpuff Girls | Dexter's Laboratory | Time Squad | Thundercats | He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe | Gundam Seed |
| ESPN | | Winter X Games (X-Slammed/Stomped) | ATP Masters Series Hamburg, Germany | | Winter X Games (X-Day4) | | | | LPGA Golf Chick-Fil-A Charity C'ship | | | | Pool/Snooker Mosconi Cup '04 | | Sportscenter Asia | 2005 WPBA Great Lakes Classic | | 2004 Table Tennis C'ships | Sportscenter Asia |
| Disney Channel | Mr Bean: The Animated Series | Totally Spies | The Sleepover Club | Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny | Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command | Martin Mystery | Totally Spies | Kim Possible | Mr Bean: The Animated Series | House Of Mouse | Wonderful World Of Disney | | | My Wife And Kids | That's So Raven | America's Funniest Home Video | According To Jim | Wonderful World Of Disney | |
| Cinemax | Momentum | | | The Reality Of Love (4.15.PM) | | | Warning Parental Advisory | | | Dragnet (7.15.PM) | | | | Cabin Fever | | | Octane | | |
| Hallmark Channel | Who's The Boss | Just Cause | | HCA: The Fairytaler | Sesame Street | | Mad About You | Who's The Boss | Bewitched | Wire In The Blood | | Just Cause | | Snow White | | | Missing (10.35PM) | | Hustle (11.25PM) |
| Discovery Channel | | Civilisations | | | | Wild Science | | Ultimate Discovery | | Rides | | Human Discovery | | Wild Discovery | | Ultimate Discovery | | Science Mysteries | |
| Sports Plus | | | | Arena Football Grand Rapids @ Chicago | | | | | | Wachovia C'ship Highlights | | World Poker Tour ep 5 Sn Francisco | | | | World's Greatest Auto Shows | | Nopi Tunerversion | Bikini Destination |

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
TUWING HUWEBES pagkatapos ng American Idol
Ating kabalitaan Cheri Mercado
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MAY 17, 2005
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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Grime does not pay.
FOR CLEAN EMISSIONS.
DIESEL MAX
Clean Diesel to the Max

# 4-month BOP surplus rises by 165% to $887M

By Doris C. Dumlao

**THE COUNTRY posted a balance of payment surplus of $887 million in the first four months of the year, about 165 percent more than the $335 million in surplus in the same period last year.**

The four-month BOP surplus also exceeded the target of $852 million for the whole year, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

BSP Officer in Charge Amando Tetangco Jr. said: "The year-to-date BOP surplus was achieved in the light of a double-digit growth in OFW (Overseas Filipino Workers) remittances, strong portfolio inflows and more foreign borrowings."

But even if the full-year surplus target had been met this early in the year, Tetangco said the BSP was not in a rush to again revise its BOP target for 2005.

He said the BSP would review the targets later this year to factor in other possible developments.

For the month of April alone, the surplus stood at $104 million, sustaining the windfall of $98 million in March although it was much lower than the $713 million surplus posted in the same month last year.

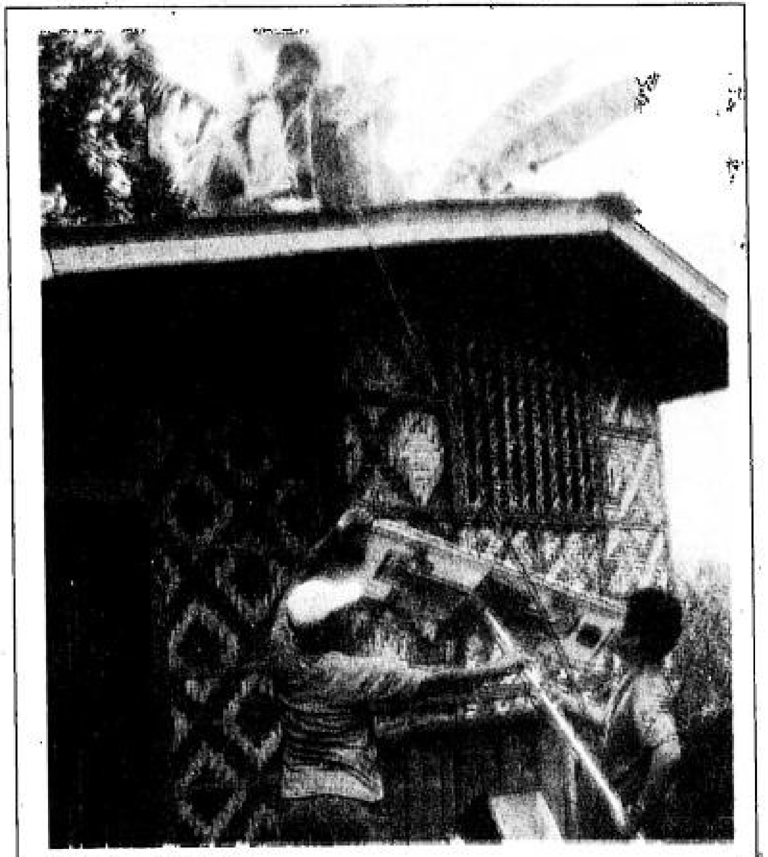
BSP Assistant Governor Diwa Guinigundo said the strong foreign exchange inflows allowed the BSP to purchase more dollars and beef up the Gross International Reserves.

The country's GIR hit an 11-month high of $16.69 billion as of end-April, from $16.53 billion at end-March.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the economy and the rest of the world. Its major components are the current account, and the capital and financial account.

Current account records trade

4-MONTH/ B3

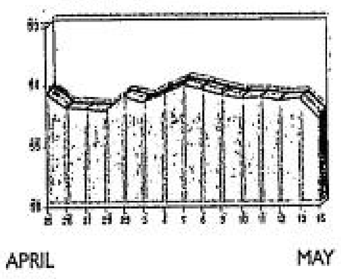


**LIGHT AT LAST**
Finishing touches are being done on the installation of a solar home system in a in Brgy. Linandangan, Pagalungan in Maguindanao. Twenty-nine other households in the barangay will receive the same renewable energy system from the United States Agency for International Development (Usaid)-funded and Mirant Philippines-supported Alliance for Mindanao Off-grid Renewable Energy (Amore) Program . Members of the Barangay Renewable Energy and Community Development Association, after being trained by Amore, help install the RE systems.

## INDICATORS

### CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



P54.52 = $1
As of 5 p.m., May 16, 2005

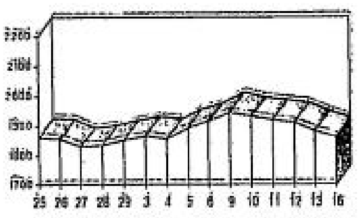
¥106.91 = $1
As of 5 p.m., May 13, 2005

GOLD: $426.00-426.50
per ounce Hong Kong, May 10, 2005

### STOCK MARKET

## Stocks close 1.05% lower

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B3)

SHARE prices yesterday closed 1.05 percent lower, extending losses to a fifth day as technical glitches cut short trading hours, dealers said.

The market opened 90 minutes late due to technical problems, giving traders just about an hour as bourse officials decided against extending the trading day.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index dropped 19.80 points to 1,862.59 after trading between 1,859.31 and 1,882.93. Volume was 272 million shares worth P927 million.

The broader all-shares index fell 11.43 points to 1,143.26.

Losers led gainers 45 to eight, with 34 stocks unchanged.

"The technical glitch was a spoiler. It ruined investors' game plans for today," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities.

"There has also been no inspiring development that could have moved the market higher following last week's fall," he added.

Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities said the market's failure to hold above the 1,880 support could indicate a test of the recent closing low of 1,818.87, reached on April 18.

"Since the passage of the VAT (value-added tax) bill and the favorable first quarter corporate earnings are already fully discounted by the market, this leaves bargain hunters with very little to go on," he added.

Congress last week passed new VAT legislation which removes exemptions of key industries to the 10 percent tax while giving President Arroyo standby authority to raise the rate to 12 percent next year. *AFP*

# Treasury bill rates drop across the board

By Michelle V. Remo

TREASURY bill rates dropped across-the-board for the fourth consecutive auction yesterday, as banks remained awash with cash and have turned bullish after the passage of the value-added tax bill.

"Liquidity is at an all-time high. Also, development in the fiscal front continues to be positive," National Treasurer Omar Cruz said in a press briefing after the auction.

The bellwether 91-day T-bill rate shed off 14.6 basis points to settle at only 6.028 percent, as bidders swamped the auction for this short-term government security. Bids reached P11.145 billion, or much more than the government's original debt offering of P2 billion for each maturity.

The high volume of bids prompted the Treasury's auction committee to go beyond its scheduled borrowing and accept P2.8 billion worth of tenders.

The 182-day T-bill rate fetched a yield of 7.096 billion, or 25.3 basis points lower than last week's figure. Also highly oversubscribed by the market, the six-month debt instrument generated P9.255 billion worth of bids, of which P2 billion was accepted by the government.

The 364-day T-bill rate declined by 17.2 basis points to 8.14 percent. The one-year government security similarly got a warm market response, as bids for it reached P7.71 billion. The auction committee accepted P2 billion of the bids.

"The market is very liquid, and we don't have other similarly attractive instruments," said a trader as he explained the warm market reception to the government's domestic debt offering.

The trader said market liquidity was boosted by the P37 billion in retail treasury bonds that matured last week. After getting the proceeds of these RTBs, many banks preferred to continued investing their cash in government securities, she said.

The approval of the VAT bill, the trader added, took away the uncertainty in the market.

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# The market gets the Moody blues

**MR. BEARBULL**

*Ron Nathan*

THE PAST year has not been a good one for me. I do not mean financially, I mean on a personal basis.

After receiving an invitation from Rome, I fancied my chances of becoming the next Pope, but I was eliminated in the first ballot.

I have all the necessary qualifications. I do not drink, smoke, take drugs or eat meat. I do not kill any living creature and I never knowingly do harm to my fellow man. I have never been guilty of a felony or even a Miss Demeanor, whose lawsuit on sexual harassment was thrown out of court.

I once parked my toy tricycle on a one-way street when I was 3, but since I could not read, the charge was dismissed. I am married but celibate. My wife's favorite position is back to back. Perhaps the world is not yet ready for an agnostic Pope.

Then there was the matter of the British election last week when Tony Blair was returned for a third term. Had he been defeated, I was a shoo-in to lead the Conservative Party because the current leader is resigning, and there is no one else with the intelligence and charisma to lead the Party.

So another opportunity went to waste.

I have just been told that I will not be considered for the part of James Bond because of my age. In his last of 6 films, Roger Moore was so old that they had to use doubles for his love scenes.

The most irritating event was that Tiger Woods asked me to partner him in a Junior-Senior tournament and then missed the cut, the first time in 7 years, and I had to suffer.

I might play with my good friend Tony who has a handicap of 9. Mine is at home.

If you have seen the Phantom of the Opera, a wonderful film, there is a scene where the Phantom plays a round with Carlotta. He uses a mini driver.

With all these journalists being killed, the INQUIRER is protecting all its columnists. They gave me a bulletproof vest and Plexiglas headgear. They equipped my amphibious tricycle with heat-seeking antitank missiles plus twin car berettas. These extra 2 arms make me feel safer. Forewarned is 4-armed.

My wife is pleased that the increase in VAT has been deferred. Until January, she can still buy low-VAT milk and VAT-free salad dressing.

Motorists should put 30 pounds pressure in their tires instead of the recommended 28 pounds. This is to allow for inflation.

* * *

LAST Monday, the degree of risk rose to 100, which is rare because I am using a slow, weighted, momentum indicator.

With a fast indicator, this would not be extraordinary, but for a slow indicator to jump from 0 to 100 in 7 days is almost unheard of. It is like a car going from 0 to 100 mph in 5 seconds. It came out an hour after I sent in my article, but I told all subscribers to get out of the market and it has fallen every day since then.

It looks as if it will go lower still for several reasons. First of all, I think the VAT bill is totally inadequate as economists have calculated that it will raise only P30 billion this year instead of the P80 billion or more the President was hoping for. Next year, it will raise P120 billion, but in the meantime, the situation is deteriorating.

The government has just increased foreign debt by another $750 million, plus an additional P7 billion for the black hole name Napocor. Also, the BIR has missed its target for the third successive month. So much for the lateral attrition bill.

There are still five more bills to be debated, including a switch to a parliamentary system. In the UK, we have had this since 1350, and it works extremely well—much better than the present bicameral system that gets deadlocked.

Another factor was the decline in Wall Street where 100-point falls in the DOW are now commonplace. But the news is not all bad. High oil inventories have pushed the price of crude oil below $50 a barrel and the trade deficit shrank from $60 billion in March to $55 billion in April. China's trade surplus surged to $31.5 billion fueling speculation that the yuan will eventually be revalued.

At the ADB meeting last week, a spokesperson for Moody's Investor Services said that the fiscal situation facing the Philippines now is twice as bad as that facing Argentina in 1991 when it defaulted on its obligations.

Regardless of the merits of the statement, it had the effect of unnerving investors, and the Phisix plunged 80 points in 5 days. Except for one day, foreign brokers have been net sellers of our stocks for the past 2 months, and the amount they have sold is but a fraction of what they bought in the 9 months preceding the beginning of March.

Another factor is the changes in the weighting of the Morgan Stanley global indices, including the Asia-Pacific index. There are numerous mutual funds around the world, which have more than $3 trillion in funds benchmarked to the various indices, and the managers, whose funds track them, typically mimic the changes.

So, if a stock is dropped from the index, all the fund managers will sell it, as the mutual fund has to correspond with the index. Conversely, if stocks are added, fund managers have to buy them in order to keep their percentages in tandem. And $3 trillion is big money.

An additional factor is the percentage that each country has in the Asia-Pacific index. This time around, 113 Asian stocks will be added to the index on May 30. Japan led the region with 34 stocks, including Japan's second largest mobile phone company. This considerably increases the weighting of Japan, so a greater percentage of the portfolio will be invested in that country.

Australia came second with 13 additions representing 85 percent coverage at the industry level. This follows the methodology of using the free-float system instead of capitalization. Taiwan was also increased substantially with industry coverage raised from 75 percent to 100 percent.

China added 11 companies, but this is certain to record the greatest increase in the years ahead as the country has started privatizing a large number of companies.

Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia received 3 to 6 each, but the Philippines added only Banco de Oro.

This means that the percentage of Philippine stocks, already tiny, has been reduced to 0.81 percent, and this has been behind the selling of AC, ALI and BPI, all with large free floats. The selling does not have to be carried out until the end of the month but is obviously taking place now.

The PSE should investigate Semirara, which has fallen nonstop from P52 to P27, mainly on foreign selling. Surely, the company should make a statement to stockholders explaining the reason for the fall.

Presumably, DMC has dropped from P6.10 to P2.50 because it is largely dependent on Semirara for its income. A statement from DMC would be helpful. *(mrbearbull@hotmail.com)*

# RP bourse ranks 2nd best in Asia

**By Elizabeth L. Sanchez**

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has emerged as the second best performing bourse in Asia as of May 11, growing by 5.4 percent, buoyed by corporate earnings and a stronger peso.

The PSE, in a statement, said that it only trailed the exchange in Indonesia, which grew 5.8 percent. The ranking was determined using the percentage change of the composite index year-to-date, or the basket of 30 stocks in the index, in peso terms.

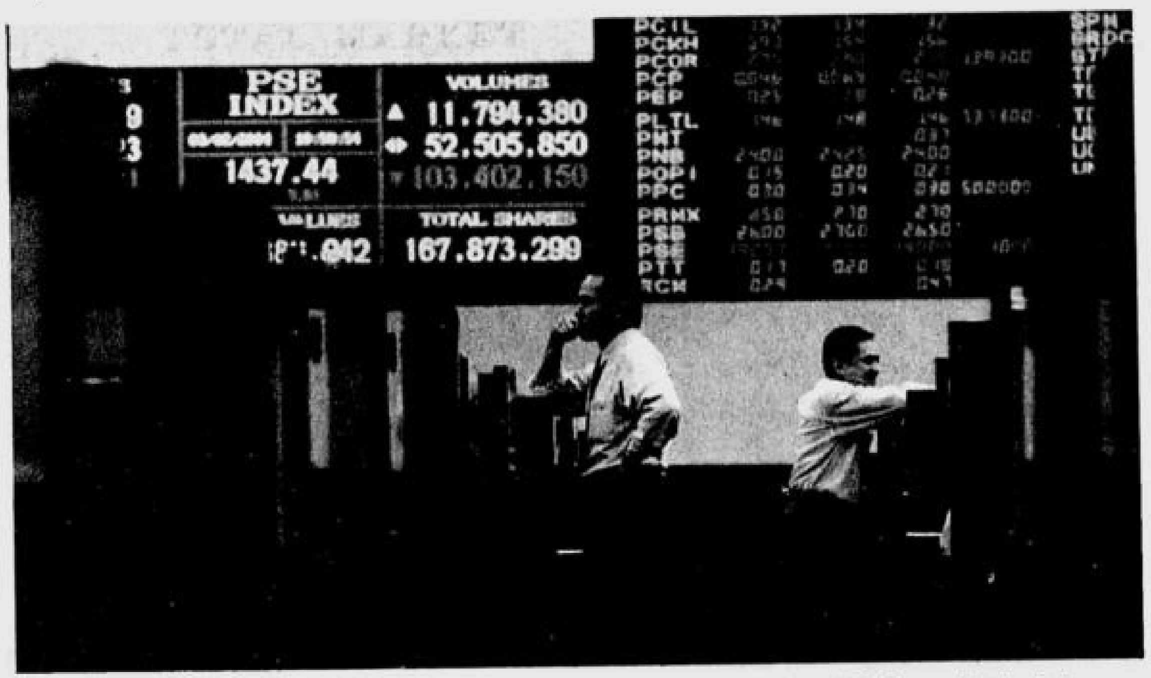
Other bourses that grew during the period were Singapore, which climbed 4.6 percent; South Korea, which rose 3.1 percent and Thailand, which advanced 2.2 percent.

On the other hand, four exchanges posted declines in the same the period: Taiwan with -3.6 percent; India, -2.7 percent; Hong Kong, -2.1 percent; and Malaysia, -1.5 percent.

PSE officials, citing data from Bloomberg and the United States, also said the Philippines had the best performing bourse, climbing 9.2 percent as of May 11, followed by South Korea with 6.7 percent, Indonesia with 3.9 percent, Singapore with 3.9 percent, and Thailand 0.7 percent.

In a recent briefing on the Philippine stock market before members of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Australia-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce last week, Jojo Gonzales, president and head of research at Philippine Equity Partners, said local prices grew on the back of strong corporate earnings growth, coupled with a strengthening peso.

"It is good to note that the Philippine stock market has sustained its performance ... despite the decline in recent weeks," said PSE president Francis Lim. "But this should not [be cause] for complacency."



**BROKERS take advantage of a lull in trade on the floor of the Philippine Stock Exchange. In the Asian trade, the local exchange ranked second only to Indonesia, growing by 5.4 percent year to date.**

## *SMC profit growth seen slowing*

FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. expects to post just a slight growth in net earnings in the first quarter, from the P1.74 billion it earned in the same period last year, due to the weakness in its beverage operations and anemic revenues from its food businesses.

Industry sources said beer sales and food operations took a hit in the first quarter as rising energy prices and additional taxes ate into consumer spending.

At the same time, analysts said SMC would likely book higher financing charges for the year due to its aggressive expansion overseas.

These factors point to a slower profit in the first three months.

In the first quarter last year, net sales revenues for SMC hit P39 billion , up 15 percent due to the strong performance of SMC's domestic and international beer businesses.

SMC is counting on contributions from its softdrinks arm, Cosmos Bottling Corp., to boost sales.

Cosmos earlier restructured operations to bring in favorable results starting this year, despite the slump in the carbonated beverage industry.

The company embarked last year on "difficult but necessary" programs to ensure long-term viability and growth, Cosmos chair Ramon Ang said in a report to the company's stockholders.

"We are optimistic that the initiatives and programs we set in place last year will begin to bring in favorable results in 2005 and beyond," Ang said.

Confronted with mounting operational challenges, Cosmos integrated certain functions to focus on sales and logistics. It streamlined operations in five plants, leading to synergies, lower costs, enhanced product quality and profitability.

Cosmos remained the country's second-leading carbonated beverage company. The company posted net sales of P10.7 billion in 2004, up 8 percent from P9.9 billion in 2003. Its total assets, meanwhile, reached P11 billion.

From a pre-acquisition level of 11 percent, Cosmos' market share went up to 22 percent as of end-2004.

Sales revenues, meanwhile, grew from P5.2 billion in 2000 to P10.7 billion in 2004. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

# DOF eyes uniform income tax deduction rate

**By Michelle V. Remo**

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance hopes to put a cap on the gross income deductions claimed by corporate and self-employed taxpayers, in a bid to plug revenue leakages arising from over declaration of deductions.

According to the DOF, the proposed capping may be done by imposing a uniform rate for taxpayers claiming deductions from their gross income.

Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan said the DOF has yet to determine the capping rate.

Under the income tax system, companies and those self-employed are allowed to deduct business related expenses to their gross income to arrive at their net income, which is the basis for computing their income tax liabilities. The DOF said the income system had been abused, as some taxpayers would declare only a meager amount of taxable income.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue earlier said that, in 2003, some large taxpayers reduced their gross income by as much as 98 percent, therefore allowing the revenue agency to collect income tax based only on their remaining 2-percent income.

Those self-employed are levied varied income tax rates depending on their income levels, while corporate taxpayers are imposed a 32-percent income tax rate. The corporate income tax rate, however, would soon be increased to 35 percent after Congress passed the bill raising the corporate income tax rate and lifting several value-added tax exemptions.

The need to improve the efficiency in collecting income tax is now pressing, Bonoan said, especially since Congress has already passed the bill raising the corporate income tax rate to 35 percent.

## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 16, 2005)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES | | | | | |
| BANKS | | | | | |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 48.5 | 48.5 | 48 | 48 | 790,100 |
| China Banking Corp. | 735 | 735 | 735 | 735 | 50 |
| Export and Ind. Bank Inc. | 0.68 | 0.68 | 0.63 | 0.64 | 2,210,000 |
| International Exch. Bank | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 2,000 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 32 | 33 | 32 | 32 | 204,600 |
| Philippine National Bank | 33 | 33 | 32.5 | 32.5 | 80,900 |
| Phil. Savings Bank | 32 | 33.5 | 32 | 33.5 | 1,100 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 27.5 | 27.5 | 27 | 27 | 123,600 |
| FINANCIAL SERVICES | | | | | |
| First Metro Invest. Corp. | 290 | 290 | 290 | 290 | 500 |
| PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 20,000 |
| Sun Life Financial Inc. | 1600 | 1600 | 1600 | 1600 | 10 |
| COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL | | | | | |
| COMMUNICATION | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 12.75 | 13 | 12.5 | 12.75 | 16,800 |
| Digital Telecom Phils Inc. | 1.04 | 1.06 | 1.02 | 1.06 | 922,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 810 | 815 | 810 | 810 | 45,880 |
| Ipeople Inc. | 3.85 | 3.85 | 3.75 | 3.75 | 54,000 |
| Pilipino Tel. Corp. | 3.25 | 3.25 | 3.2 | 3.25 | 1,536,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 1410 | 1410 | 1400 | 1400 | 192,260 |
| Ivantage Corp. | 0.6 | 0.61 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 660,000 |
| Philweb Corp. | 0.017 | 0.018 | 0.017 | 0.018 | 13,600,000 |
| POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 5,300 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 23.25 | 23.25 | 23 | 23 | 158,000 |
| Manila Water Co. Inc. | 5.8 | 5.8 | 5.8 | 5.8 | 658,000 |
| Petron Corp. | 3.35 | 3.35 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 1,107,000 |
| TRANSPORTATION SERVICES | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 1.8 | 1.82 | 1.78 | 1.78 | 2,360,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 7.6 | 7.6 | 7.6 | 7.6 | 32,000 |
| Keppel Phils. Marine Inc. | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 100,000 |
| Lorenzo Shipping Corp. | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1.04 | 10,000 |
| CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS | | | | | |
| FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO | | | | | |
| Alaska Milk Corp. | 3.35 | 3.35 | 3.35 | 3.35 | 50,000 |
| Ginebra San Miguel Inc. | 33.5 | 34 | 33.5 | 34 | 10,500 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 28.5 | 28.5 | 28.5 | 28.5 | 294,900 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 57 | 58 | 57 | 58 | 91,500 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 84.5 | 85 | 84 | 85 | 103,700 |
| HOLDING FIRMS | | | | | |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg A | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 11,000,000 |
| Ayala Corp. | 7 | 7 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 736,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 4.75 | 4.75 | 4.65 | 4.65 | 801,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6,000 |
| Alcorn Gold Res. Corp. | 0.006 | 0.006 | 0.0055 | 0.0055 | 11,000,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 0.99 | 1 | 0.98 | 1 | 3,070,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.205 | 0.21 | 0.2 | 0.21 | 780,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 2.55 | 2.55 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 295,000 |
| Ever-Gotesco Resources | 0.036 | 0.036 | 0.036 | 0.036 | 2,000,000 |
| Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp. | 8 | 8 | 7.8 | 7.9 | 222,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 46 | 46 | 45 | 45 | 969,400 |
| Forum Pacific Inc. | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 500,000 |
| Global Equities Inc. | 0.0875 | 0.0875 | 0.0875 | 0.0875 | 100,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc. | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 1,000 |
| Medco Holdings | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 50,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 1.38 | 1.38 | 1.34 | 1.34 | 252,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.35 | 0.36 | 5,910,000 |
| Philcomsat Holdings Corp. | 0.72 | 0.72 | 0.72 | 0.72 | 20,000 |
| SM Investments Corp. | 248 | 248 | 247 | 248 | 686,930 |
| Seafront Resources Corp. | 0.33 | 0.33 | 0.33 | 0.33 | 110,000 |
| Uniwide Holdings Inc. | 0.175 | 0.175 | 0.175 | 0.175 | 5,110,000 |
| HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | 1.14 | 1.16 | 1.12 | 1.16 | 500,000 |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | 0.82 | 0.82 | 0.82 | 0.82 | 30,000 |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp. | 1.42 | 1.42 | 1.32 | 1.38 | 511,000 |
| Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc. | 0.33 | 0.33 | 0.33 | 0.33 | 600,000 |
| BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr) | 12.25 | 12.25 | 12.25 | 12.25 | 587,800 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series O | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 100 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series P | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 700 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 300 |
| PROPERTY | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 7.6 | 7.6 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 30,108,000 |
| Cityland Development Corp. | 1.36 | 1.36 | 1.36 | 1.36 | 5,000 |
| Cebu Holdings Inc. | 0.92 | 0.92 | 0.92 | 0.92 | 1,100,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 2,000,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.37 | 0.37 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 3,320,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.48 | 1.52 | 671,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 0.58 | 0.58 | 0.58 | 0.58 | 160,000 |
| MRC Allied Ind. Inc. | 0.135 | 0.135 | 0.135 | 0.135 | 100,000 |
| Robinsons Land Corp. | 4.95 | 4.95 | 4.95 | 4.95 | 64,000 |
| SM Development Corp. | 1.66 | 1.66 | 1.66 | 1.66 | 100,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 7.3 | 7.3 | 7.2 | 7.2 | 6,136,000 |
| MINING | | | | | |
| Abra Mining & Industrial | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 16,000,000 |
| Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't | 4.45 | 4.45 | 4.3 | 4.35 | 301,000 |
| Benguet Corp. A | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 5,000 |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 180,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B | 0.34 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 10,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. A | 0.015 | 0.015 | 0.015 | 0.015 | 31,600,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. B | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 17,900,000 |
| Omico Corp. | 0.0065 | 0.0065 | 0.006 | 0.0065 | 73,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 1.02 | 1.02 | 1 | 1 | 1,392,000 |
| Semirara Mining Corp. | 29.5 | 29.5 | 27 | 27 | 266,700 |
| United Paragon Mining Co. | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 1,500,000 |
| OIL | | | | | |
| Imperial Res. | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 7,500,000 |
| Pacifica | 0.009 | 0.009 | 0.009 | 0.009 | 5,000,000 |
| Sinophil Corp. | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 2,470,000 |
| Vulcan Ind'l | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 20,000 |

| | SHARES | VALUE(P) |
|---|---|---|
| Bank & Fin Svc | 3,432,860 | 52,227,600.00 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 154,103,313 | 645,499,475.80 |
| PRO | 43,764,000 | 268,482,140.00 |
| Mining | 142,154,700 | 11,945,350.00 |
| OIL | 14,990,000 | 503,800.00 |
| GRAND TOTALS : | 358,444,873 | 978,658,365.80 |

| | AVERAGES | |
|---|---|---|
| Bank & Fin Svc | 548.12 | DOWN 5.38 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 2,946.24 | DOWN 22.30 |
| PRO | 681.93 | DOWN 19.21 |
| Mining | 2,600.09 | DOWN 36.52 |
| OIL | 2.35 | DOWN 0.02 |
| SME | 100.00 | UNCH 0.00 |
| All Shares Index | 1,143.26 | DOWN 11.43 |
| Composite | 1,862.59 | DOWN 19.80 |

NO. OF ADVANCES: 8; NO. OF DECLINES: 45; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 34; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 87; NO. OF TRADES: 1,329

## DISCLOSURES

**BELLE Corp.** will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 3, 3 p.m., at the Magellan Room, Discovery Suites, 25 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of April 29 will be entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

**PICOP Resources Inc.** will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 29, 2:30 p.m., at the Makati Sports Club, Alfaro St., Salcedo Vill., Makati City. Stockholders of record as of May 27 will be entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

**ANGLO Philippine Holdings Corp.** postponed its annual stockholders' meeting from May to July 29, and set the record date to May 27. It also announced the appointment of Adrian Arias as executive vice president, replacing Francisco Navarro, who has retired, and of Iluminada Rodriguez as vice president for finance and administration.

* * *

**RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp.** will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 27, 4 p.m., at the Antonio delas Alas Executive Dining Hall, 47th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City. Stockholders of record as of May 30 will be entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

**LORENZO Shipping Corp.** elected Doris Magsaysay Ho and Antony Louis Marden as directors, replacing Marjorie Wee and Jeremy Poh, who, resigned. ***Compiled by Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research***

## CURRENCIES

| May 16, 2005 Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.79195375 | 1.000000 | 54.2630 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.007379 | 0.009317 | 0.5056 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.465986 | 1.851100 | 100.4462 |
| Hongkong | Dollar | 0.101556 | 0.128235 | 6.9584 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.647127 | 0.817127 | 44.3398 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.626051 | 0.790514 | 42.8957 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.477771 | 0.603282 | 32.7359 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.602613 | 0.760919 | 41.2897 |
| Bahrain | Dinar* | 2.10084 | 2.652731 | 143.9451 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.211188 | 0.266667 | 14.4702 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.476335 | 0.601468 | 32.6375 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000084 | 0.000106 | 0.0058 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.020009 | 0.025265 | 1.3710 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.215632 | 0.272279 | 14.7747 |
| Euro | Euro | 1 | 1.262700 | 68.5179 |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.273796 | 0.345722 | 18.7599 |
| Brazil | REAL | 0.32037 | 0.404531 | 21.9511 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.13441 | 0.169719 | 9.2095 |
| India | Rupee | 0.018247 | 0.023041 | 1.2503 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.208437 | 0.263193 | 14.2816 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.071901 | 0.090789 | 4.9265 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.563227 | 0.711187 | 38.5911 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.123465 | 0.155899 | 8.4595 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.013317 | 0.016815 | 0.9124 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.125607 | 0.158604 | 8.6063 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000792 | 0.001000 | 0.0543 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.108595 | 0.137123 | 7.4407 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.015256 | 0.019264 | 1.0453 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.025327 | 0.031980 | 1.7353 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000369 | 0.000466 | 0.0253 |

# BOC starts ₱1.1-B tier 2 capital offer

By Doris C. Dumlao

BANK of Commerce yesterday started offering P1.1 billion worth of tier 2 capital to raise more funds for lending to its market.

"This will immediately strengthen our capital and give us enough funds to either increase lending or pay off high-cost deposits," BOC executive vice president Mario Padilla said.

The tier 2 offering will raise BOC's capital adequacy ratio to about 16 percent, from 12.4 percent as of end-February.

The offering will consist of unsecured subordinated notes with a tenor of 10 years but callable on the fifth year. Deutsche Bank is the lead manager, while Multinational Investment Bancorporation is the initial market-maker.

A subordinated debt is an obligation that is less prioritized in the payment of principal and interest to all depositors and creditors of the issuer, except those expressed to rank equally with or behind the holders of subordinated debt. Should the issuer become insolvent, the subordinated debt holder will be paid only after other ordinary debts were settled.

BOC's notes will have a minimum denomination of P500 million and increments of P100,000 beyond the minimum.

The offering was rated by PhilRatings as PRS A, which means that the bank has an above-average capacity to meet its financial commitments relative to that of other corporates.

Padilla said BOC would not venture into the consumer lending business. It will, instead, stick to its niche market—the middle market composed of medium-sized enterprises with assets of P50 million and above.

BOC EVP for credit management Ricardo Dizon said the bank was expecting to expand its lending portfolio by P4 billion this year from the P20 billion outstanding loans as of end-2004.

"We're focusing on sunshine industries—services, telecommunication companies, food and some export industries like [makers of] furniture," Dizon said.

"We're shying away from the garment industry," he added.

To avoid over-concentration in a single industry, which is common to lenders that focus on the middle market, BOC has imposed an internal ceiling on lending to each particular industry as well as a sub-cap per borrower.

BOC registered a net income after tax before provisions of P708.3 million last year compared to P825.67 million in 2003.

Its net interest income went up to P1.7 from P 1.2 billion in the same period last year. Its deposits continued to expand, breaking the P41.5 billion mark, up from P37.3 billion a year ago.

In the first quarter of 2005; Bancommerce posted a net income of P180.2 million, up from the previous year's P7.5 million. This represented 46 percent of its target for the whole year.

In 2004, the bank invested over P200 million and hundreds of hours implementing its new core banking systems, which includes the full automation of the deposit system of its 112 branches nationwide.

# 4-month BOP surplus rises by 165% to $887M

From page B1

and transfers of goods and services. Any transaction that gives rise to a payment in foreign currency by a Philippine resident, like importation, is a deficit item. Any transaction that gives rise to a receipt of foreign exchange, like exporting, is a surplus item.

The BOP is influenced by the build-up in the GIR, which, in turn, includes the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, special drawing rights from multilateral institutions and foreign investments. The GIR is seen as an indicator of the country's ability to service the foreign exchange requirements of the economy.

Earlier this month, the BSP jacked up its 2005 BOP surplus target by about 84 percent to $852 million from the earlier forecast of $464 million due to the stronger influx of migrant remittances and foreign portfolio investments.

The move was also influenced by the changes in the BSP's accounting method, which significantly reduced the amount of errors and omissions.

Under the new methodology, for instance, a 20-percent raising factor was included in OFW accounts to estimate remittances outside the banking system. The BSP is expecting OFW remittances to hit at least $9.4 billion this year, further increasing from the all-time high record of $8.5 billion in 2004. The earlier forecast was much more conservative at $8.6 billion.

With the new accounting method, OFWs are now split into the following categories: residents (income account) and non-residents (current transfers).

There was likewise an adjustment in import data to correct the understatement of consigned raw materials for electronics, thereby providing a better representation of the electronics industry that is more import-dependent than what was suggested by the old numbers.

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which comprises 11 central banks and monetary authorities
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*Reserve Bank of Australia, People's Bank of China*
*Hong Kong Monetary Authority, Bank Indonesia*
*Bank of Japan, Bank of Korea*
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# DBP commends Equitable PCI Bank

EQUITABLE PCI Bank was recently awarded by the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) as the Most Outstanding Participating Financial Institution for 2004 under the Japan Bank for International Cooperation Facilities for large scale and shipping industries.

DBP commended the bank for its achievement in energizing the growth of industries and its contribution towards fast-tracking development initiatives in the country.

Equitable PCI Bank chair Antonio Go (4th from right) together with EPCIBank EVP and Credit, Products and Subsidiaries Group head Sergio Ll. Naranjilla Jr (4th from left) received the award from (left) DBP senior executive vice president Panser Tumangan, DBP senior EVP and COO Edgardo Garcia, DBP president and CEO Reynaldo David, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Japan Bank for International Cooperation senior representative Tadashi Unoki, and DBP chair Vitaliano Nanagas II.

Also present during the ceremonies was the team of EPCIBank Special Lending Department which was instrumental in the achievement of the citation. They are composed of AVP Rolando Dillague, Vivian De Chavez, Rosebella Linco and Agnes Santos.

The bank has been a consistent recipient of various awards from bilateral and multilateral funding institutions. Other institutions which have acknowledged the bank's support to SMEs and large-scale enterprises in the past include Trade and Investment Development Corp, Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corp, Countryside Loan Fund Programs of the Land Bank of the Philippines, and the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, Export-Import Bank of Japan, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank Programs of the Development Bank of the Philippines.

Equitable PCI Bank marks its 55th year this 2005. It is presently the country's third largest banking group enjoying top tier standing in corporate and commercial banking, treasury, trust banking, credit and payment cards, remittances, leasing, and investment banking. It has over 400 branches and more than 500 FASTeller ATMs nationwide, with access to 5,500 BancNet, MegaLink and ExpressNet ATMs.

**JACK 'N JILL: THE MEGA BRAND**

After close to 40 years of supremacy in the Philippine snack food business, Jack 'n Jill, makers of such well-known brands as Chippy, Chiz Curls and Nova, has widely expanded its brand name to cover other food categories, namely candies, biscuits, baked products and chocolates. This year marks the biggest change yet in Jack 'n Jill history as its product line goes all out. Jack 'n Jill will no longer be just a name but a mega brand that brings with it the promise of unending product innovations and quality improvements. Armed with its rich heritage in snacking, Jack 'n Jill forays into the equally competitive business of candies, chocolates, biscuits and baked goods. Photo shows Benny Sanchez, general manager of URC's consumer branded snack foods group and Bienvenido Bautista, URC EVP/managing director with the URC branded foods group during the internal launch of the all new Jack 'n Jill brand which now covers all food categories - snacks, candies, biscuits, baked goodies and chocolates.

# Catch the 'Unlimited Text Service' fever

SUN Cellular, the mobile network that pioneered the real 'unlimited' call and text deals to the local market, offers an exciting Summer treat to all its valued subscribers: the 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite! The promo, which runs from April 15 to May 31, gives all active prepaid subscribers the chance to enjoy two days of round-the-clock texting for only P20. Indeed there is no stopping Sun from rolling out the ultimate and the most cost effective unlimited deal.

With Sun's 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite, prepaid subscribers can send, forward and reply to as many text messages, Sun to Sun, for only P10 a day. What a great way for "textnophiles" to stay connected to their family, loved ones, and barkadas, this summer. The 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite is, indeed, a cool, convenient and consumer-friendly summer offer from Sun, that's certainly lighter on the budget.

It's easy to avail of the 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite. Simply text TU<space>2 and send to 247. Texting to 247 is free of charge. After texting the keywords to 247, a text message containing the number series *220# followed by a 14-digit number string will be received. Then choose between these two loading procedures: (1) Key in *220# followed by the 14-digit number string then the # sign. Ensure that there are no spaces between characters then press SEND; or, (2) Dial 220, press 1 then enter the 14-digit number string (for security purposes, it is best to load up immediately after you receive the 14-digit number string).

Upon loading the number string, a text message reflecting the updated regular load balance is immediately received. This means that 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite has been activated and you can start enjoying the service until it expires. That's real time loading, which every valued Sun subscriber truly deserves.

If the regular balance reaches zero after loading 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite via text, only local Sun-to-Sun text messages can be sent. Simply load up a regular Sun Cellular Prepaid call card to call or text subscribers of other networks.

Sun Cellular's 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite is offered until May 31, so catch this awesome summer treat now.

And here's more. Sun also recently introduced its New Preloaded SIM Pack. Starting April 15, new Sun subscribers can avail of the Sun Cellular sim pack that is already preloaded with the 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited (CTU) service valid for seven days. Get one now to immediately enjoy calling and texting fellow Sun buddies for seven full days, for only P150. With the New Preloaded SIM Pack, there's no more need to buy a CTU load. Enjoy the 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited (CTU) service for seven days, for the same sim pack price.

Sun Cellular is committed to further improve its services to those who depend on the network for affordable and convenient mobile communications. Network expansion plans and projects have also been set to accommodate the fast-growing number of Sun Cellular subscribers.

Experience the best-value call and text unlimited services only from Sun Cellular.

For more information about Sun Cellular and its latest "unlimited" deals, visit its website at www.suncellular.com.ph or call its 24-hour hotline number at 395-8000.

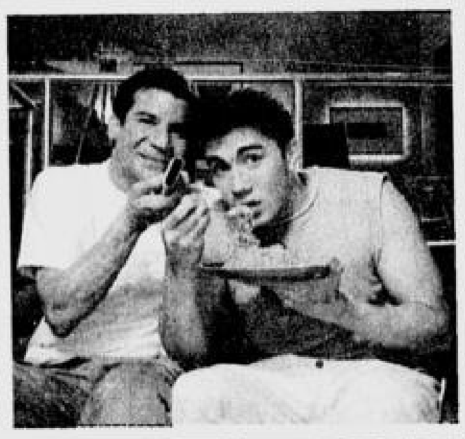
## ProductFILES

### *TV viewing at its finest with LM! Pancit Canton*

WHAT can ever be more fun than watching television and plainly hanging-out and having fun? Oddly, this is one of the most favorite pastimes of this particular father and son tandem, Edu and Luis Manzano. Being the high-profile personalities that they are and both leading extremely busy lifestyles, they still find time to bond over simple joys. Edu, being a veteran movie actor, host and the chairman of the Optical Media Board while Luis, being a regular TV host and a VJ.

However, their TV viewing is made even more enjoyable and pleasurable with Lucky Me! Pancit Canton. It's not anymore just about battling over the remote control; it's also about bonding and enjoying their favorite snack. This can clearly be manifested in the latest commercial for Lucky Me! Pancit Canton showing them enjoying their pastime, albeit with a comic touch that's in keeping with their characters on and off the set. TV viewing at its finest with LM! Pancit Canton.

Who will not enjoy Lucky Me! Pancit Canton? Lucky Me! pioneered soup-less instant noodles and is truly the favorite pancit canton of Pinoys of all ages. It captures the taste of traditional pancit canton-bursting with the rich flavors of sautéed onion, garlic and savory chicken making it a delicious and nutritious snack which does not make us wonder why even the likes of Edu and Luis enjoy it.



**TANDUAY, VIVA HOTBABES CONCERT TOUR GOES TO ILIGAN**

Tanduay and the Viva Hotbabes staged a sizzling concert before a crowd of 15,000 Iligan folks right in the city plaza last March 12. Tanduay never got tired of treating the Iligan folks to bartending exhibitions, free rhum mixes, free t-shirts/calendars and big discounts on liquor products available at Tanduay booths installed around the plaza. The Iligan event is part of the Tanduay and Viva Hotbabes Nationwide Concert Tour for 2005. Shown are Iligan City Mayor Lawrence Cruz with Viva Hotbabes Hazel Cabrera and Katrina Gonzales.

**LISTERINE POCKETPAKS ONBOARD CEBU PACIFIC FUNFLIGHTS**

Listerine PocketPaks hits the skies and joins major carrier Cebu Pacific in a special tie-up that will bring fresh breath coolness onboard the airline's outbound flights. Hailed as one of the world's best product innovations, Listerine PocketPaks will now be part of Cebu Pacific's Funflight prize packs, to be given away by friendly cabin attendants during the airline's popular in-flight games. Passengers will not only enjoy fun, relaxing flights to their local dream destinations, they can now also experience onboard the cool, instant fresh breath that Listerine PocketPaks provides. Funflight games that give away Listerine PocketPaks as prizes kicked off on Cebu Pacific flights from Manila to Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Davao and Bacolod last March 8 and will continue until August of this year.

CENTRAL PANGASINAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
San Carlos City, Pangasinan
Tel. Nos. 532-2222 / 532-3146

**INVITATION TO BID**

Central Pangasinan Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CENPELCO) with office address at Padilla St., San Carlos City, Pangasinan is in need of conductors and electrical equipments intended for its rehabilitation and upgrading projects. Listed below are the required specifications and quantity:

**PACKAGE I - CONDUCTORS**

| | PARTICULARS | QUANTITY |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Conductor, Bare, ACSR # 1/0 AWG | 12,000 meters |
| 2. | Conductor, Bare, ACSR # 2/0 AWG | 20,000 meters |
| 3 | Duplex Wire # 1/0 | 60,000 meters |

**PACKAGE II - DISTRIBUTION LINE EQUIPMENTS**

| | PARTICULARS | QUANTITY |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Power Shunt Capacitor<br>100 kVAR, 7620 Volts, 60 Hz, 95 kV BIL, Single Phase<br>Double Bushing, Outdoor Type, Built-in Discharge Resistor | 6 units |
| 2. | Power Shunt Capacitor<br>50 kVAR, 7620 Volts, 60 Hz, 95 kV BIL, Single Phase<br>Double Bushing, Outdoor Type, Built-in Discharge Resistor | 3 units |

We are inviting responsible suppliers to participate in a sealed bid to be submitted to PBAC on May 26, 2005 (Thursday) at 2:00 p.m. (1400 hrs) at CENPELCO main office, Padilla St., San Carlos City, Pangasinan wherein your bid will be opened in your presence or that of your representative.

Request further to include in your sealed bids/proposals the delivery date, terms of payment and availability of stock for evaluation purposes. Bid for one or two items only is acceptable. The BID BOND is either in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to two and a half percent (2½%) of the total bid price or surety bond equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price. Bid bond less than the required amount will be automatically disqualified. Bids/proposals submitted beyond the specified date and time will not be accepted.

CENPELCO RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY OF THE REQUIRED FORMALITY THEREIN AND ACCEPTS THE BIDS ONLY DEEMED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE.

(Sgd.) RODRIGO F. CORPUZ
PBAC Chairman

Noted by:

(Sgd.) JOSEFINA D. MANDAPAT
Officer-in-Charge

(Sgd.) ENGR. EDGARDO R. PIAMONTE
Project Supervisor

(PDI - May 17 & 19, 2005)

**Picpa Metro Manila Region goes to Vietnam**

WITH the dynamic leadership of the chair, George Villaruz, the Picpa Metro Manila Region will hold its 2nd International Conference at the New World Hotel, in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on May 19 to 22. The conference chaired by Myrna Javier, secretary of the MMR Council and past president of Eastern Metro Manila Chapter has the theme "Global Alliance of Accounting Professionals". Considering the initiatives of accounting and auditing standards councils all over the world to harmonize all financial reporting standards for global application, the conference is considered very relevant to these interesting times. It is expected to attract no less than 100 delegates from the Philippines as well as Vietnamese and other countries' accounting professionals. Both Vietnamese, American, British and Australian and French accounting and finance professionals will grace the occasion. Topics will cover best practices in corporate governance, performance management, risk management, the changing outlook of internal audit and audit committees, developments in the stock market as well as banking and financial sectors in Vietnam and how to do business in Vietnam the right way. For inquiries, contact Picpa Metro Manila Region at 723-9225, 723-6313, 726-9453 or the Picpa MMR website at www.picpa.net.ph.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
METRO COTABATO WATER DISTRICT
Cotabato City

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**

The Metro Cotabato Water District invites interested and legitimate Suppliers/parties to submit bid proposal (2 sealed envelopes) for the following projects:

| BID NO. | | NAME OF PROJECT | APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT |
|---|---|---|---|
| 01 | 1 lot | Supply, delivery and installation of electric motors and its assemblies for flocculator and rapid mixer drives, motor controls complete with standard accessories, rapid mixers and flocculators or as per technical specifications and drawings. | Php. 2,873,641.86 |
| 02 | 2 lots<br>2 lots | Supply, delivery, and installation of dosing pump, motor controls complete with standard accessories as per technical specifications and drawing.<br>Supply, delivery and installation of Polyethylene (PE) tank complete with stirrer, stirrer controls and other accesories as shown on plans and as specified. | Php. 860,000.00 |

Interested parties may secure Bid Documents and Detailed Specifications upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 500.00 during office hours at Metro Cotabato Water District, Governor Gutierrez Avenue, Cotabato City with Tel. Nos. (064) 4213566 / 4211070.

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

| PARTICULAR | DATE/TIME |
|---|---|
| Issuance of Bid Documents | May 18 to 26, 2005 |
| Opening/Submission of bids | June 01, 2005 |

The criteria to be used by BAC in the eligibility check of prospective bidders shall be on non-discretionary "Pass / Fail" basis.

The MCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the MCWD. The MCWD likewise assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that the award shall be made.

(Sgd.) MANUEL D. MAGDAEL
Chairperson
Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI–May 10 & 17, 2005)

**2GO DELIVERS FOOD-BY-PHONE**

Now you can enjoy food at your doorstep the way it should be served fast and fresh. Aboitiz 2GO couriers once again partners with call center operator Qinteraction, which introduced a logistics service that focuses mainly on food delivery aptly called Food-by-Phone. A system that can pinpoint the exact delivery location, Food-by-Phone uses a 3D map and 2GO's motorcycle service to ensure ordered meals arrive in the right place, at the right time. 2GO motorcycles, through Food-by-Phone delivery, carry the Qix Box, a technology that automatically detects and maintains the temperature of any food during transit. So, your drinks remain cold and your meals hot when you receive them. Food-by-Phone services the following restaurants: Mandarin Deli, Grilla Bar & Grill, Cheesecake Etc, Via Mare, T.G.I. Fridays, Dulcinea, Macau Pigeon House, Yum Yum Tree, Flamers, Alba, Bravo, The Fondou, Wok-Inn, and Kaya Korean Restaurant. Soon, Food-by-Phone will also deliver great food from Pasto, El Cuento, Magnum, Una Mas, Cork Wine Cellar & Grill, Bon Appetit, EAT, and Bizu. Just dial 459-FOOD (459-3663) and order your food to go. For other courier needs, visit www.2GO.com.ph or call 2GO hotline at (02) 528-7246.

# Quality education made more accessible

WORKING hand-in-hand with the government towards the realization of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's vision of quality education and increased opportunities for the youth, AMA Education System (AMAES) now launches a comprehensive financial assistance program designed to make quality education more accessible to college freshmen and transferees.

Dubbed AMA Assist, the program, made possible through a partnership with the AMA Foundation, offers underprivileged but qualified freshmen and transferees up to 50 percent discount on school fees for the duration of their entire courses. All they have to do is pass the qualifying exams and show proof that their parents' combined incomes does not exceed P200,000 annually.

This is to supplement ongoing efforts of the country's largest network of universities and colleges, AMAES, to democratize university-level education in the country by making available many schemes to enable even disadvantaged students to earn a university degree.

These schemes include a scholarship program for high school graduates who garnered the top honors. Under the said program, 100 percent of tuition and lab fees will be waived for valedictorians while salutatorians will be given a fifty (50) percent discount. Application is made even easier because there are no qualifying exams. Applicants are only required to submit their credentials to show proof that they have indeed garnered the top honors.

Academic Scholarships will likewise be awarded to underprivileged but deserving students who earned a general average of 85 percent or higher. Once they pass the qualifying exams, students can pursue college education in any college or university belonging to the AMAES. The scholarship can be continuously availed of from the first term up to graduation if the students consistently maintain passing grades in all subjects every term.

According to Amable C. Aguiluz IX, president of the AMA Education System, "Quality education is not a privilege only for the chosen few. It is the birthright of every Filipino child and, therefore, should be made accessible to him."

This firm conviction has recently led AMAES, through the AMA Foundation, to partner with ABS-CBN's Bantay Bata Foundation in granting scholarships to eight (8) wards of their Bantay Edukasyon project. The scholars are currently enrolled in several AMAES campuses. They are also being granted regular stipends for their various educational needs to ensure that their schooling will not be disrupted due to financial reasons.

Believing in the adage that good education is the key to uplifting one's life, AMA is set to grant scholarships worth half a billion pesos to thousands of students for school year 2005 alone.

Application for the different AMA scholarship programs is ongoing nationwide at any campus affiliated with the AMAES. These are AMA Computer University, AMA Computer College, ACLC College, ACLC Learning Center, AMA School of Medicine and Nursing, ABE International College, St. Augustine School of Nursing and Norwegian Maritime Academy.

This generous program is in celebration of AMA Education System's 25th anniversary of quality education with over 200 campuses worldwide.

# DOTC, Yang group ink deal on Caticlan airport

By Clarissa S. Batino

A GROUP of investors led by businessman George Yang has signed an agreement with the Department of Transportation and Communication to upgrade the Caticlan airport near Boracay Island.

Sources said Yang's group, called Caticlan Airport Corp., would first conduct a feasibility study to determine whether modernizing the Boracay airport to put it at par with international standards would be a viable investment opportunity.

If viable, the DOTC official said the government could give Yang's group an "original proponent status" to develop the Caticlan airport, also known as the Godofredo P. Ramos airport.

This means that the Yang group would get first crack at the project.

But since the project proposal was unsolicited, the government would still have to allow other parties to submit a superior bid. But the original proponent will have the right to match any offer.

Part of the group's plan was to extend the runway to accommodate larger airplanes and to put up a decent airport terminal.

Currently, only small aircraft operated by Southeast Asian Airlines and Asian Spirit fly straight to Caticlan to bring tourists to and from Boracay.

Bigger airplanes would have to fly to Kalibo, Aklan, about an hour and-a-half away from Caticlan.

From Caticlan, tourists take a 30-minute ferry boat ride to the island renowned for its powder white sand and sparkling blue water.

Yang owns Golden Arches Development Corp., the master franchiser of the McDonald's fast food chain.

The businessman was reportedly in talks to acquire one of the upscale resorts in Boracay, to cash in on the increasing number of tourists going to Boracay.

The Air Transportation Office originally planned to extend the runway of the Caticlan airport to accommodate bigger aircraft.

The project would cover the extension of runway, from 834 meters by 30 meters by 950 meters by 30 meters, as well as the expansion of the apron, construction of rapid exit taxiway and renovation of the terminal building.

Sources, however, said that the ATO project was insufficient if the government wanted to accommodated bigger aircraft and attract more tourists to Boracay.

# Smart, Sun get more frequencies

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has granted additional frequencies to Smart Communications Inc. and Sun Cellular to accommodate their network expansion.

The NTC reported that the last bandwidth available at the 1800 MHz frequency for cellular phone operators was divided evenly between the two companies.

The NTC decided to equally divide the bandwidth to ease tension between the two companies, which were bitterly fighting over the additional frequency.

It took the NTC more than a year to act on the issue, indicating how difficult it was for the regulator to arrive at a solution that would benefit both carriers.

Smart had applied for additional frequency allocation as early as March 2002, while Digital Telecommunications Phils.'s Inc. sought the 5 MHz on December 2003.

Sun Cellular is the trade name of Digitel Mobile Phils. Inc., a unit of listed firm Digitel.

The NTC considered that under the 1800 MHz frequency with the remaining 5 MHz slot, Smart already has 17.5 MHz while Sun Cellular has 15 MHz.

Globe Telecom Inc., meanwhile, has 12.5 MHz under the same frequency.

Smart pointed out that it has the biggest subscriber base and thus, would need the biggest frequency allocation to deliver quality service to its 20.2 million customers as of the first quarter.

Sun Cellular, on the other hand, said its customer base was growing rapidly due to the popularity of the 24/7 unlimited plan, thus would require additional infrastructure support.

Sun Cellular ended the first quarter with 1.7 million subscribers. Globe has 12.9 million.

Smart expects to end the year with 23 million subscribers. The NTC said the remaining 5 MHz would be the last frequency available under the conventional digital wireless operations.

The next available frequencies were set aside for third-generation wireless operation or 3G, which the NTC would like to bid out this year.

*Clarissa S. Batino*

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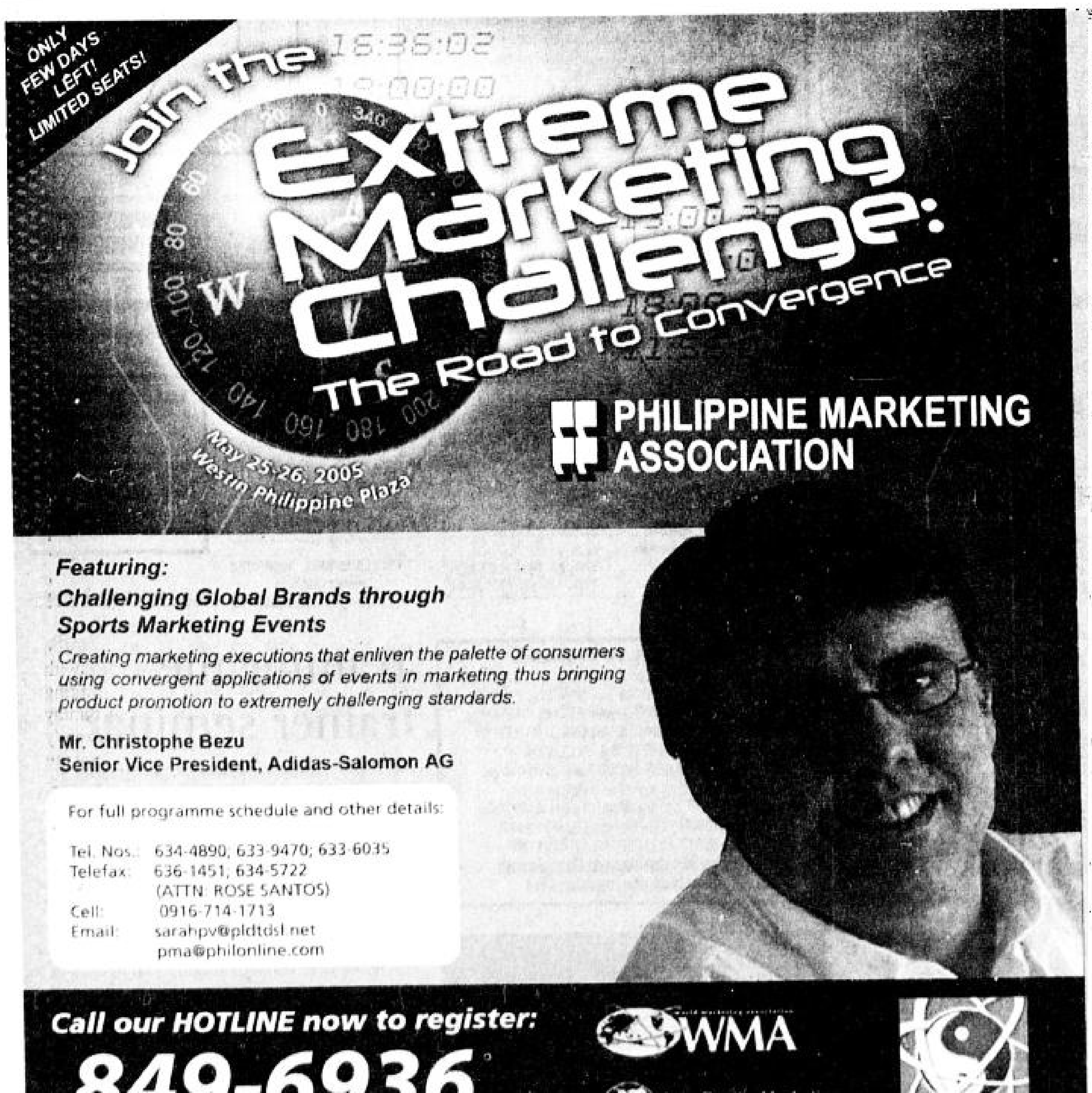
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DAY 1 : May 25, 2005
Session Chair: Dr. Nick C. Fontanilla
*President, The Asia Pacific Center for Research*

Keynote Address
Mr. Robert de Ocampo
*President, Asian Institute of Marketing*

Session One:
A Business Philosophy for Extreme Marketing: Pushing Your Limits in a Crisis Economy

Speaker: Mr. Bienvenido Policarpio
*Executive Vice President, Prudential Group of Companies*
*President, Dale Carnegie Philippines*

Session Two:
Customer Relationship Management: Building Technology to the Extreme

Speaker: Mr. Mark Yambot
*Director for Corporate Affairs, Microsoft Philippines, Inc.*

Session Three:
Pain Makes Gains: Pharmaceutical Companies Going Beyond Pain

Speaker: Mr. Carlos "Do" Ejercito
*President, United Laboratories Group*

Session Four:
The New Empire: Shaping the Future of High-Rise Condominiums

Speaker: Mr. Luke Tan
*Director, Investor Relation, Megaworld*

Session Five:
Challenging Global Brands through Sports Marketing Events

Speaker: Mr. Christophe Bezu
*Senior Vice President, Adidas-Salomon AG, Hong Kong*

Day 2 : May 26, 2005
Session Chair: Dr. Karen De Asis
*Marketing Consultant*
*Marketing Director, La Salle Graduate School*

Session Six:
Mega Formulas for Extreme Marketing from a Marketing Guru

Speaker: Mr. Hermawan Kartajaya
*President & Leading Service Officer, MarkPlus&Co.*

Session Seven:
Advertising Convergence: Bringing Filipino Consumers Closer to the Brand through Humor

Speaker: Mr. Joselito B. Ortega
*Chairman & CEO, BrandLab, Inc.*

Session Eight:
The New Imperative in Today's Convergence in Marketing: Sustainable Growth

Speaker: Mr. Gavin Coombes
*Vice President, Euro RSCG Asia Pacific*

Session Nine:
Mall Mania: Shop Until You Drop!

Speaker: Ms. Grace F. Magno
*Head of Marketing, Araneta Group of Companies*

Session Ten:
New Rules in Market Leadership: Success Stories in Non-traditional Bank Marketing

Speaker: Mr. Tomas Victor Mendoza
*SAVP, Banco de Oro Universal Bank*

Session Eleven:
Creativity on the Edge: Media & Marketing Convergence

Speaker: Mr. Nicanor C. Gabunada
*Senior Vice President for Integrated Sales & Marketing, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Company*

Closing Session:
The Road to Recovery through Market Convergente

Speaker: Mr. Jose Jesus F. Roces
*Professor, Asian Institute of Management (AIM)*
*President, Asia Pacific Marketing Federation, (APMF)*

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PDI - May 17, 24 & 31,2005

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### CONDO/TWNHSE

#### MAKATI

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## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

### CONDO/TWNHSE

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#### MANILA

BAY GARDEN ROXAS BLVD 1,2,3BR 0920-9602940 RFO

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## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites interested suppliers who are (a) duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships; or (b) 60% Filipino owned partnerships/corporations; or (c) two or more suppliers forming into joint ventures jointly and severally liable; or (d) cooperatives duly registered with the CDA; with largest single contract, similar to the items for bid, for the last 2 years, at least equal to 50% of the approved budget; and with Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) at least equal to the approved budget, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items:

| ITB No. | Item / Description | Approved Budget | Source of Funds |
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| | 3 bxs. Pen Tablet (Siglite Electronic Pen) | 10,500.00 | LBP Funds |

Bidding of the above requirements is scheduled on **June 15, 2005 at 1:00 p.m.** and the Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.**

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **May 31, 2005** at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to the **Qualification/Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract** shall be governed by the provisions of **RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.**

Only those bidders who comply with the Bank's requirements shall be eligible to participate in the bidding.

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any defect or informality and to accept bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

**COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS**

(PDI – May 17 & 24, 2005)

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROJECT
NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Regional Office 13 (Caraga)

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

**The National Economic and Development Authority Regional Office 13 (Caraga)- Local Government Unit Management Training Project**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites consulting firms to apply for eligibility and shortlisting and if found eligible and shortlisted to bid for the hereunder services:

Title : **Training Consulting Services**
Brief Description : The Training Consulting Firm (TCF) shall (a) conduct TNA i.e.; assess training needs of local government units and local training/service institutions in the Caraga region; (b)conduct conference/meetings with local institutions providing training services to LGUs and assist in the development and implementation of a plan to organize a pool of local service providers; (c) design and pre-test project and program development and management training courses/modules, package and pre-test training manuals, templates and guidebooks; (d) conduct project and program development and management training for selected LGUs and institutions in the Caraga region; as well as (e)facilitate the drafting, finalization and packaging of LGU project studies for presentations to local development councils and other investors.
Approved Budget for the Contract : **PhP1,658,800**
Source of Funding : New Zealand Agency for International Development Grant for LGUMTP
Contract Duration : 5.5 months (Services need to be completed by 15 December 2005)

The list of minimum requirements is indicated in the Eligibility Form. Eligibility of prospective bidders shall be checked using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Shortlisting of eligible consultants will be done based on the following criteria: experience of the consultant, qualification of personnel, current workload and financial standing. Only five eligible bidders shall make up the shortlist. The evaluation procedure to be adopted shall be Quality based Evaluation (QBE).

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is as follows:

| | Activities | Schedule/Deadline |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility | 31 May 2005 |
| 2. | Issuance of Eligibility Forms | 18 May-1 June 2005 |
| 3. | Submission of Eligibility Requirements | 3 June 2005 |
| 4. | Results of Eligibility Check | 7 June 2005 |
| 5. | Results of Short Listing | 8 June 2005 |
| 6. | Issuance of Bid Documents | 8-9 June 2005 |
| 7. | Pre-bid Conference | 10 June 2005 |

The Eligibility Screening Form will be available at **LGUMTP-NEDA Caraga Office, Nimfa Tiu Building, J. Rosales Ave., Butuan City Tel. Nos. (085)3420181/3425774, Fax Nos. (85) 3602055/8150308 Email: nzaidlgumtp_neda@yahoo.com** upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **PhP1,000.00** to the **NEDA Caraga** cashier. Submission and results of eligibility shall be in the same office. For further enquiries contact, Ms. Lurraine Baybay Villacorta, LGUMTP Project Director.

Bid documents will be available only to the shortlisted bidders upon payment of PhP1, 000.00 to the **NEDA Caraga cashier.**

LGUMTP-NEDA Caraga assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of bid.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) **CARMENCITA S. COCHINGCO**
*Regional Director*

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and
whoever
loses
his life
for my
sake
will
find it.

Matthew 10:39

---

## HERMINIA D. TAMASE

of Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija & Los Angeles, California
Retired Principal, St. Pius X Institute
Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija

*Peacefully joined our Lord at the age of 87.*

Loving daughter of **Marceliano G. Tamase (†)**
**& Florencia V. Dato (†)**
Devoted sister of **Josefina T. Gorospe,**
**Virginia T. Dacquel,**
**Arch. Marceliano, Jr., Atty. Manuel (†) & Dr. Socorro (†)**

Her relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

---

*"I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me will live even though he dies and whoever believes in Me will never die.*

John 11:25-26

Our Beloved Mama

## Clara P. Silangcruz

[Married to **Mamerto M. Silangcruz** (†)]

*Died in the peace of the Lord*
*on May 16, 2005 at the age of 99.*

She is survived by her children Pros (deceased) and Adeling, Mert & Gilda, Nita & Ike, Aida & Val (deceased); Mindo & Tessie, Mercy & Naming; grandchildren & great grandchildren.

Her remains lie in state at Las Palmas, Julugan, Tanza, Cavite.

Interment will be on Wednesday, May 18, 2005 after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at Sta. Cruz Memorial, Daang Amaya, Tanza, Cavite.

The family is requesting for your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

---

*"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."*

**Psalm 23:6**

In loving memory
on the
**First Death Anniversary**
of

## PACITA FERIA DESCALLAR

***who passed away on May 17, 2004***

Memorial Masses will be offered today, May 17, 2005.

| | |
|---|---|
| **St. Paul the Apostle Parish**<br>*Timog Avenue, Quezon City* | 6:00PM |
| **Sacred Heart Parish**<br>Kamuning Quezon City | 6:00PM |
| **Sta. Rita De Casia**<br>Phil-am, Quezon City | 6:00PM |
| **Twin Hearts of Mary & Jesus**<br>South Triangle, Quezon City | 6:00PM |

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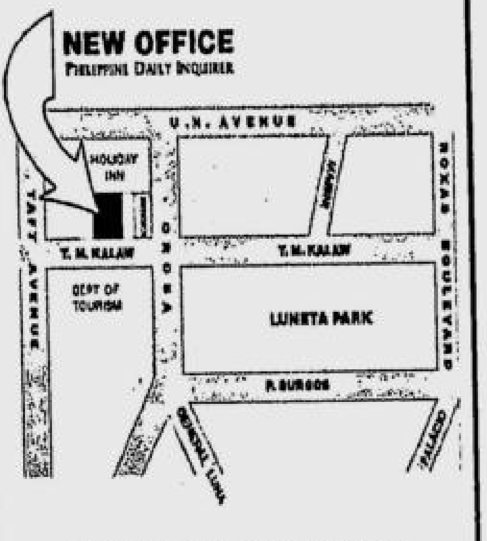

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---

## RUDOLPH P. AMBROSIO

*of Bgy. Sumilang, Pasig City*
*peacefully joined his Creator at 4:30 a.m.*
*on May 16, 2005 at the age of 42.*

His wife, **EMMA**; his children **ALDWIN, ALDOUS, ALTHEO, NICOLE, LUIGI & CASSANDRA**; his parents **CHARLIE** and **NITA**; his siblings **NANETTE, ROEHL, CESAR, RONNIE, ROMMEL, CHRISTIAN** and **Fr. LOUIE MACANDOG**; his sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, his nephews and nieces, his uncles and aunts and all relatives request the pious readers to pray for his eternal rest and everlasting happiness.

His remains lie in state at Capilla Aurora A, Arlington East, The Garden Chapels, C. Raymundo Ave., cor. Mercedes Ave., Pasig City.

Cremation will be on Wednesday, May 18, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. at Loyola Memorial Crematorium, Marikina City.

Interment will be on May 24, 2005 at Pasig Catholic Cemetery.

**PLEASE OMIT FLOWERS**

In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Catherine Laboure, Lingap Kapwa Foundation, Inc. (c/o Nanette Zaide, 5 Lopez Jaena St., Sumilang, Pasig City) is greatly appreciated.

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Our Dearly Beloved

## GERARDO JOSE S. LOPEZ

**September 30, 1964 – May 15, 2005**

*Peacefully joined our Lord*
*after a brave battle against cancer.*

His loving wife, **Mary Geraldine**; children **Joaquin** and **Sebastian**; parents **Drs. Jose** and **Milagros**; brother and sister-in-law **Juan** and **Victoria**; sister and brother-in-law **Melinda** and **Roberto Garcia**; sister **Cristina**; brother **Antonio**; nephew **Anton**; niece **Carmella**; and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Mount Carmel Shrine, New Manila, Quezon City. The family will receive well-wishers between 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on May 17, Tuesday and from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on May 18, Wednesday.

Necrological services will be offered on May 19, Thursday, at the Heritage Park Chapel at 3:00 p.m. Interment will immediately follow.

---

## Milagros Meneses Rustia

*Now peacefully rests in the Grace and Goodness of our Lord*
*on May 3, 2005 at the age of 72*
*in New Brunswick Hospital, New Jersey, USA.*

Her bereaved friend **Anita Crisostomo**; brother **Felix** (†); step brothers **Ricardo & Manuel Angeles**; sister-in-law **Lucy**; nephew **Sam** and niece **Uniza Rustia**; all relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Jacinto Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, May 18, 2005 at Manila Memorial Park after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

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Our Dearly Beloved

## DONATO D. BENIPAYO, JR.

*Peacefully joined the Lord*
*on May 15, 2005 at the age of 75.*

His bereaved family request relatives and friends to join them in prayer for his eternal repose in heaven.

His remains lie in state at
Nacional Memorial Homes
G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City
Interment will be at the North Cemetery
Date and Time will be announced later.

---

*"I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die." John 11:25-28*

**In Memory of**
**Abel Luis C. Beltran**
**Lorna M. Partosa**
**Rene "Atch" N. Reyes**
**Ma. Cristina "Kit" Rivera**

**U.P. Mountaineers who perished at Mt. Guiting-Guiting, Sibuyan Island, Romblon 20 years ago, on May 17, 1985.**

**The following Masses will be offered**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| May 15 | 8:15 AM | Meteor Homes Chapel, Marikina City |
| May 17 | 6:15 AM | Villa San Miguel Chapel, Mandaluyong City |
| | 6:45 AM | Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish, BF Homes, Parañaque |
| | 7:00 AM | Christ the King Parish, Green Meadows Ave., Pasig City |
| | 7:30 AM | Santuario de Sto. Cristo, San Juan, Metro Manila |
| | 12:00 nn | St. Louise Catholic Church, Bellevue, Washington, USA |
| | 4:00 PM | Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, U.P. Diliman |
| | 6:00 PM | Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish, West Triangle, Quezon City |
| May 22 | | St. Albert Catholic Student Center, Hammond, Louisiana, USA |

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## ROBERTO "Obet" F. MADRID

*Passed away in the grace of our Lord*
*on May 15, 2005 at the age of 50.*

His bereaved wife **Susan**; children **Jenny, Rommel** and **Jeromme**; father **Pastor**; brothers and sisters-in-law **Nestor** and **Tessie, Virgilio** and **Jean, Jorge**; sister **Medy**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at No. 5 Isagani St., Acacia, Malabon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, May 19, 2005 at the Eternal Gardens, Caloocan City after the 8:00 AM Mass at the Sacred Heart Parish Church, Tugatog, Malabon City.

---

## Ricardo Tagle Olaez

*Peacefully joined our Creator*
*on May 15, 2005 at the age of 81.*

A loving husband to his wife **Nenita**; responsible father to his daughter **Clare** & son-in-law **Elmer**, a thoughtful **Lolo** to his granddaughter **Clarisse** & a caring brother to his siblings **Herminia - Fernando** (†), **Consuelo, Paterno - Myr, Alice** (†) - **Rafael** (†), **Lope** (†) - **Luz** & an uncle to all his nieces & nephews & a brother-in-law to the Holgados; Please pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass on May 18, 2005 at the Chapel of the Risen Lord, Hearts of Jesus & Mary Parish (Tel. No. 371-9102), Daily Mirror St. West Triangle, Quezon City.

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## JOSE G. NARCELLES

*...passed away in the Grace of our Lord*
*on May 15, 2005 at the age of 89.*

His bereaved wife **Prudencia Sanchez Narcelles**; children **Adonis, Jose Jr., Cassanova, Magnifico, Valentino, Josephine,** other relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at the Funeraria Paz Chapel II, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will take place on Friday, May 20, 2005 after the 7:00 a.m. Mass at the same place.

---

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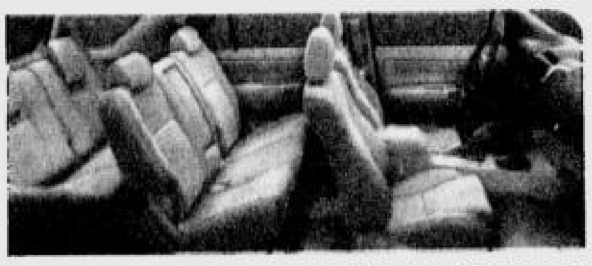

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# LIFESTYLE

*Editor* Chelo Banal-Formoso

# World-class medical care for Pinoys

ITY care at AMCH not only means the latest equipment but also compassion for patients.

By Anne A. Jambora

WHEN THE ASIAN Hospital and Medical Center (AHMC) opened three years ago, it set a new standard in hospital and medical care in the country.

Its sleek, ultra modern façade and state-of-the-art facilities redefined quality medical service and patient care, prompting other hospitals to make long-overdue upgrades.

Not one to rest on its laurels, the Asian Hospital Inc. takes another step in ensuring quality medical care for Filipinos by forging a partnership with Bumrungrad International (BI), the management company of Southeast Asia's largest private hospital, Bumrungrad Hospital.

The partnership will result in international standard management system and accreditation, high-tech information system, updated medical technology and equipment, excellent research facilities, improved organizational infrastructure.

## Medical tourism

The Bangkok-based Bumrungrad is almost single-handedly responsible for the booming medical tourism in Thailand, treating one million patients annually from more than 150 countries.

"We see more Middle Eastern patients than any other hospital outside the Middle East. This is a question of looking at a market and finding what patients want. I think we can do the same in the Philippines," says Curtis J. Schroeder, BI group chief executive officer and vice chair of Asian Hospital Inc.

Until 10 years ago, Thailand was not a center for healthcare in Southeast Asia. But now, through Bumrungrad's management expertise and a network of 13 overseas offices around the globe, the hospital books over 50 cosmetic surgeries a week from Sydney, Australia alone.

## Redirecting

In fact, Schroeder is considering redirecting some patients to the AMHC because of the dramatic rise in demand.

But first, he says, the AMHC has to be prepared and must make it easy for international patients to come to the Philippines. In Bangkok, for instance, patients are welcomed at the

WORLD-CLASS/ C3

# GOD'S LITTLE FLOWER

St. Thérèse of Lisieux, France
January 2, 1873-September 30, 1897

Today, May 17 is the 80th anniversary of St. Thérèse's canonization by Pope Pius XI in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome. Her holiness was founded on unshakeable confidence in God and an absolute love for Him.

### BORN INTO A DEVOUT HOME

St. Thérèse grew up in an affectionate family, one that understood the value of love and warmth inside the home, where quarrels were so uncommon and disagreements were resolved with carefully phrased words. She was the youngest of five daughters. Theirs was a very Catholic family, going to Mass everyday and regularly receiving the sacraments. God and the church were a regular part of their conversations. Two of her sisters, Marie and Pauline, entered the local Carmelite convent. Not long after, she followed suit.

### GOD'S "LITTLE FLOWER"

At fifteen, she entered the convent because she fervently wanted to be a saint. She used childlike imagery that simplified even the hardest facts about having a relationship with God. She spoke of the spiritual life as if it were like plucking petals off a flower and strewing them before Jesus. "Little Flower" was a name she gave herself, aptly describing her relationship with God. But underneath her tender words, she had a will of steel. When she realized how much Jesus had suffered, she wanted to experience that kind of suffering. She never imposed penances or hardships on herself but rejoiced when it came. For her, suffering was a sign of God's love. And she wanted to be united with Jesus.

### GREAT SUFFERING

She took suffering with extraordinary patience, all the while writing poems about God and heaven. But she was not without her struggles and doubts about faith. Her mother died when she was 4. Her two older sisters- her surrogate mothers, left home to enter the Carmelite convent. Her father suffered a stroke and lost his reason. She was stricken with tuberculosis when remedies for it were crude and painful. Her last months were a veritable hell. Through all this, her saving grace was a growing willingness to suffer, seeing it as a way of serving God's purpose. She died at the tender age of 24. Her last words were, " Oh I love Him! My God I love you."

### HER "LITTLE WAY"

Her "little way of spiritual childhood" is based on complete and unshakeable confidence in God's love for mankind. Within that doctrine, she tells us that we must repent for our sins and realize that God's love never fails. God's love for us must be matched by our capacity to love Him in our own little ways. She reminds us that great love, not great deed is the essence of sanctity. She found a marvelous passage in the book of Proverbs that says it all, "Whoever is a little one come to me, let him come to me."

### A SHRINE OF DEVOTION

Now a place of veneration to St. Thérèse is on its way to completion with the help of devotees in the Philippines. It is envisioned to be the center of devotion to the saint in Asia. Other devotees and those who want a place of remembrance for their departed love ones can also help build the shrine by buying a vault in the St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus Columbarium within the shrine. The Shrine of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus will be open to the public by the first quarter of 2006.

For more information on how you can help build the Shrine of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, call Magnificat Ventures Corporation at tel. nos. 635-4680, 635-4482, 635-4572, 636-6279; site tel no. 853-9189; mobile no. (0917) 890-4342; with address at Level 22, Galleria Corporate Center, EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave., Q.C. 1100. Or visit the Shrine's website: www.stthereseshrine.com.

# Magnificat's Jazz a Vault Away, Help Build a Shrine Promo A Truly Worthwhile Cause

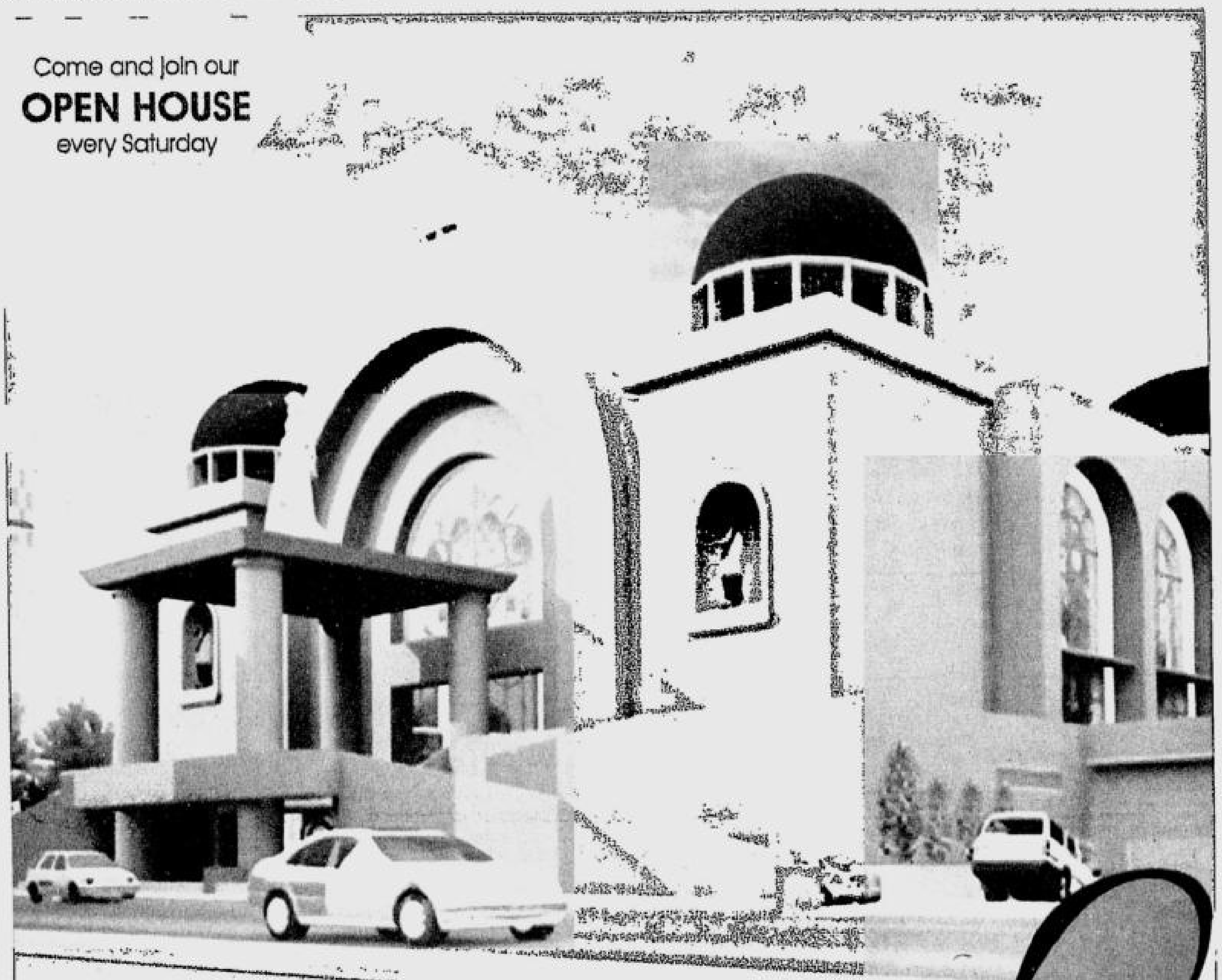
By the first quarter of 2006, devotees of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus will have a place of veneration for the saint as well as an ideal place of remembrance for their departed loved ones. The Shrine features an elegant and solemn columbarium for keeping alive the memories of the dearly departed. Completion of the Shrine is made possible through the sale of its vaults.

By simply purchasing columbarium vaults from Magnificat Ventures Corporation, you can help build the Shrine of St. Therèse of the Child Jesus. You also get a chance to win a brand new Honda Jazz and other exciting prizes in the JAZZ A VAULT AWAY, HELP BUILD A SHRINE Promo. Previous buyers and current vault owners with current accounts as well as new buyers may join the raffle promo.

Those who want to participate in this ecclesiastical cause and buy a columbarium vault may pay either in cash or by installment. Every ONE THOUSAND PESOS (Php 1,000.00) entitles purchasers to one (1) raffle ticket; bonus raffle tickets are also given away, depending on the buyer's choice of payment terms. There is no limit to the number of prizes a participant can win during the Pre-Draw and the Grand Draw. The Pre-Draw will be on October 1, 2005, the Feast Day of St. Therese of the Child Jesus. The Grand Draw is set on January 2, 2006, the birth date of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus.

The opening of The Shrine of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus to the public is targeted for the first quarter of 2006. Once completed, it is envisioned to be the center of devotion in Asia.

For inquiries, contact Magnificat Ventures Corporation at tel. nos. 635-4680, 635-4527, and 636-6279; fax no. 687-1477; site tel. no. 853-9187; mobile no. (0917) 890-4342; or visit them at 22nd Floor, Galleria Corporate Center, EDSA cor Ortigas Avenue, Q.C. 1100. You may also check out their website at www.stthereseshrine.com.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on her
Canonization Day

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I entered into life."*
-- St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus

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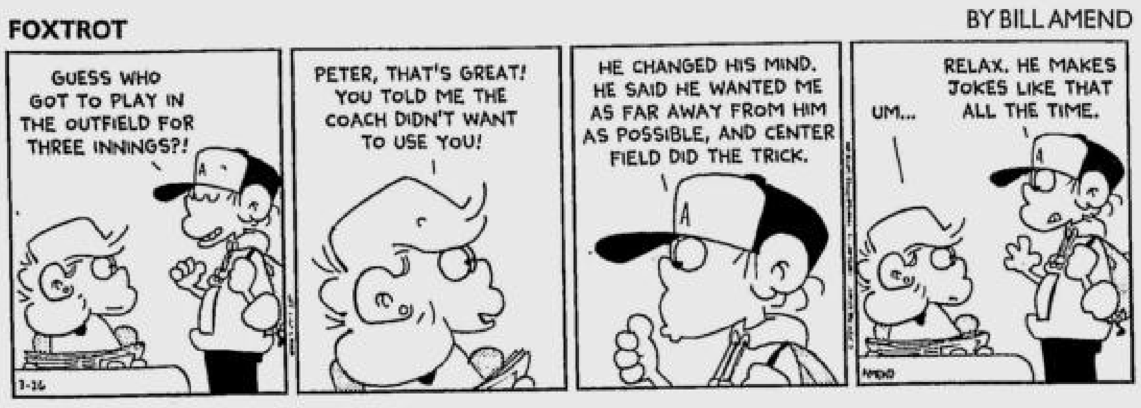
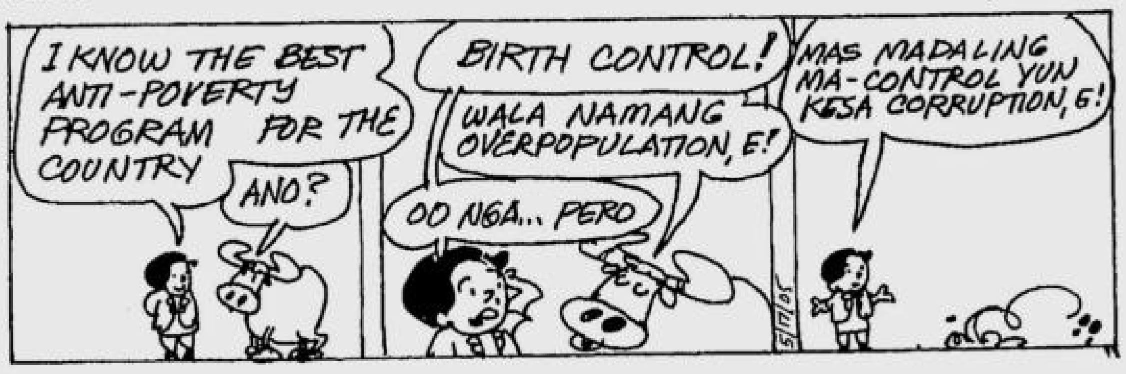

GUESS WHO GOT TO PLAY IN THE OUTFIELD FOR THREE INNINGS?!
PETER, THAT'S GREAT! YOU TOLD ME THE COACH DIDN'T WANT TO USE YOU!
HE CHANGED HIS MIND. HE SAID HE WANTED ME AS FAR AWAY FROM HIM AS POSSIBLE, AND CENTER FIELD DID THE TRICK.
UM...
RELAX. HE MAKES JOKES LIKE THAT ALL THE TIME.
AMEND

**A. LIPIN** BY JESS ABRERA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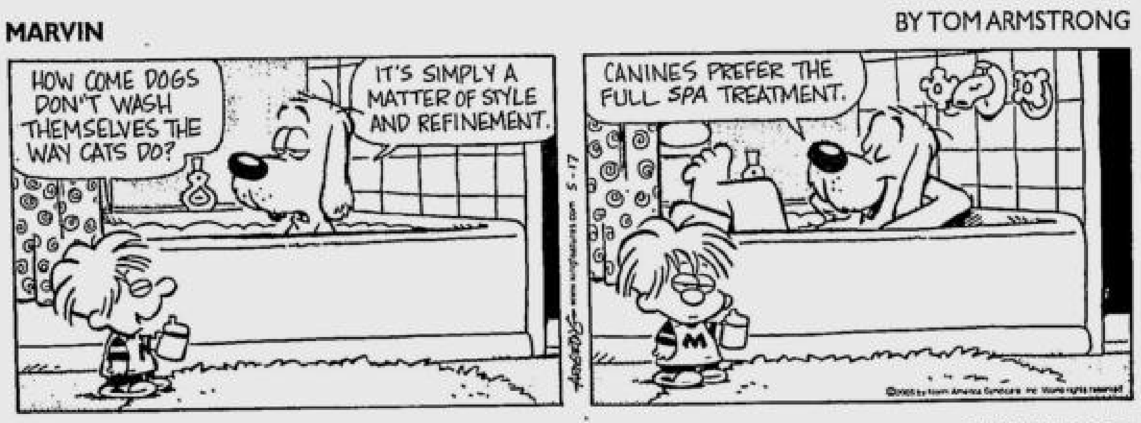
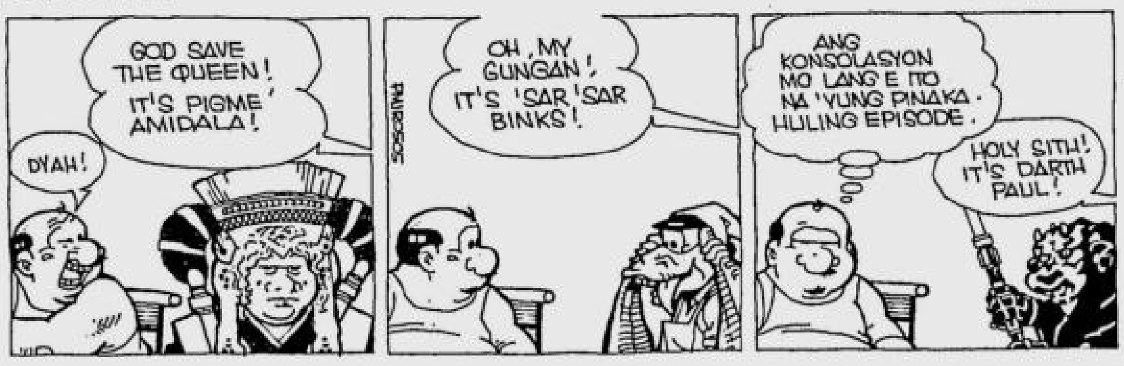
5/17/05

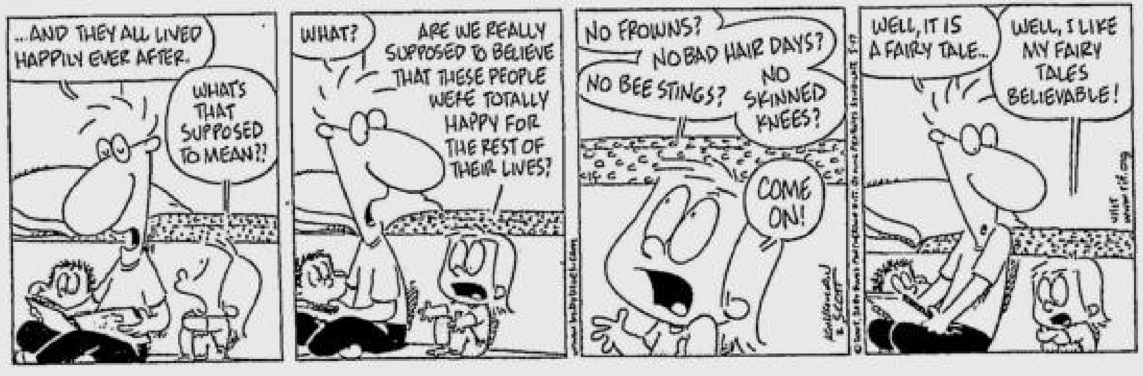
**MARVIN** BY TOM ARMSTRONG


HOW COME DOGS DON'T WASH THEMSELVES THE WAY CATS DO?
IT'S SIMPLY A MATTER OF STYLE AND REFINEMENT.
CANINES PREFER THE FULL SPA TREATMENT.
5-17

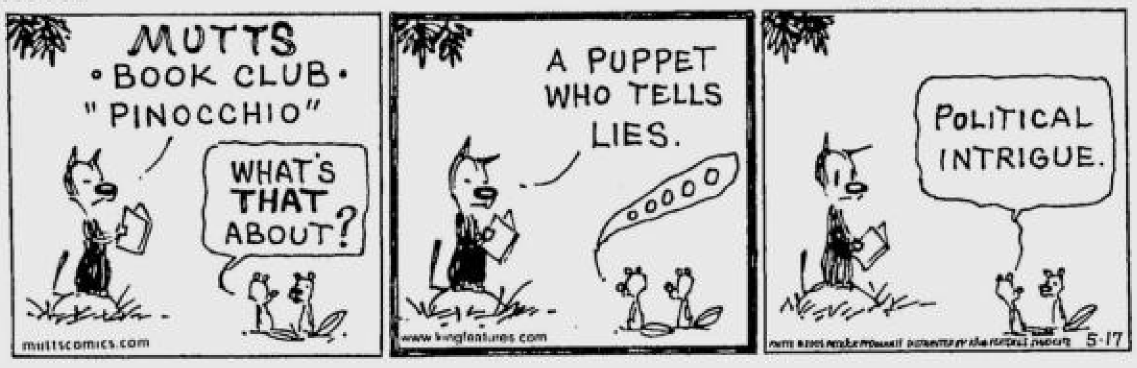
**PUGAD BABOY** BY P.M. JUNIOR


GOD SAVE THE QUEEN! IT'S PIGME AMIDALA!
DYAH!
OH, MY GUNGAN! IT'S 'SAR'SAR BINKS!
ANG KONSOLASYON MO LANG E ITO NA 'YUNG PINAKA-HULING EPISODE.
HOLY SITH! IT'S DARTH PAUL!

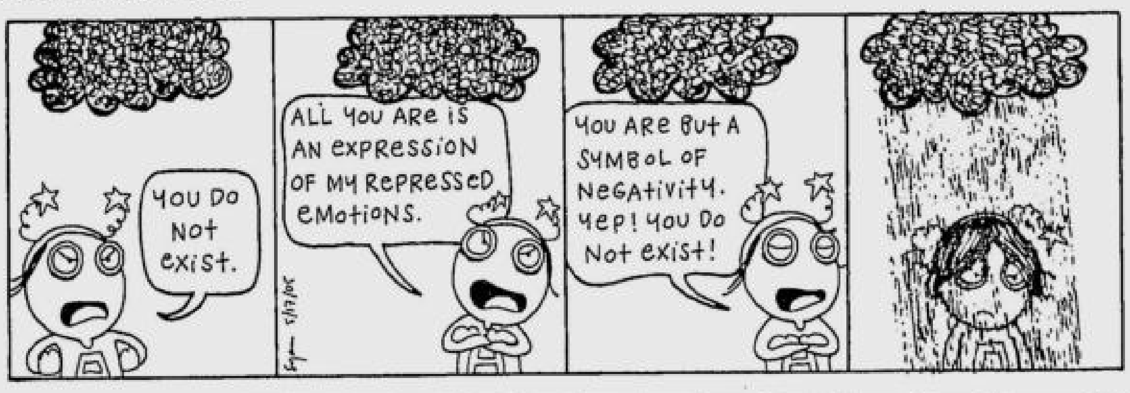
**BABY BLUES** BY JERRY SCOTT


...AND THEY ALL LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
WHAT?
ARE WE REALLY SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE THAT THESE PEOPLE WERE TOTALLY HAPPY FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES?
NO FROWNS?
NO BAD HAIR DAYS?
NO BEE STINGS?
NO SKINNED KNEES?
COME ON!
WELL, IT IS A FAIRY TALE...
WELL, I LIKE MY FAIRY TALES BELIEVABLE!

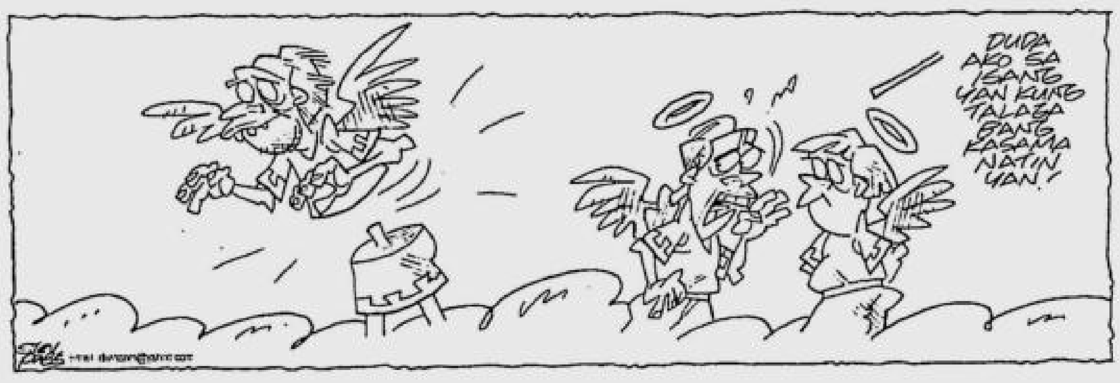
**MUTTS** BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MUTTS • BOOK CLUB • "PINOCCHIO"
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
A PUPPET WHO TELLS LIES.
OOOO
POLITICAL INTRIGUE.
muttscomics.com
www.kingfeatures.com
5-17

**ATOMO AND WEBOY** BY LYRA GARCELLANO


You Do Not exist.
ALL You Are is AN expression OF My Repressed emotions.
You Are But A Symbol of Negativity. Yep! You Do Not exist!
5/17/05

**DIVINE COMEDY** BY STEVEN PABALINAS


DUDA AKO SA ISANG YAN KUNG TALAGA BANG KASAMA NATIN YAN!

## HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** You approach life quite intensely. You're dedicated to whatever you value. You are responsible and reliable. You believe in getting down to basics. (You say what you mean, and you mean what you say.) This is the year for construction, building and hard work. You will reap your rewards for all this in 2006-07. **Birthdate of:** Dennis Hopper, actor; Enya, singer; Sugar Ray Leonard, boxer.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** This is the perfect day to relate to siblings and relatives—even neighbors. Feelings of good will, generosity and kindness abound! You'll enjoy talking to everyone you meet.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** This is a fabulous day for business and commerce. Money is falling from the sky. It's a great day to boost your income, apply for or get a new job, buy and sell or go shopping!

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** Today fair Venus is in your sign, making a wonderful aspect to moneybags Jupiter. This is a lucky event! Financial speculation is favored. You'll enjoy the arts.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** Invite the gang over today. Entertain at home. All family events will be delightfully pleasing and fun.

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** What a fabulous day to schmooze with friends! People are going to love you today. For different reasons, they enjoy your company. (Someone might even help you with your job.)

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** Your career can get a wonderful boost today. It's as if your name were up in lights! People think highly of you now. (Milk this for all it's worth.)

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** Today favors everything related to travel, higher education, publishing, medicine and the law. These areas are fortunate for you right now.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** You might get a gift from someone today. The wealth of others benefits you. Possibly your partner gets a raise or bonus. Favors come your way!

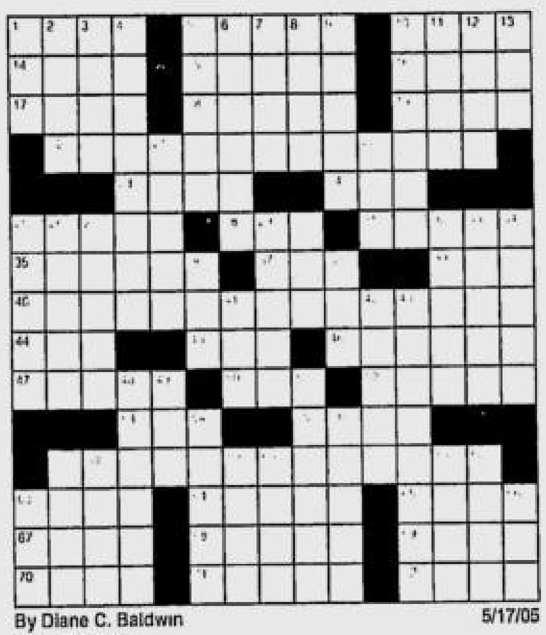
**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** Your relationship with close friends and partners is so good today that you can easily mend broken fences or make new friends. You easily persuade others to join you to do something.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** Things couldn't be better at work today! Co-workers are helpful. You might get a promotion or a raise. At the very least, it's a pleasant, fun day on the job.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** The stars are in position to promote romance for your sign today. (Be still, my beating heart.) Enjoy the arts. Accept invitations to party. Be happy!

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** Something beautiful might arrive at your home today. It could be a person, a package, a present or an event. It's a great day for real estate deals!'

## DAILY CROSSWORD



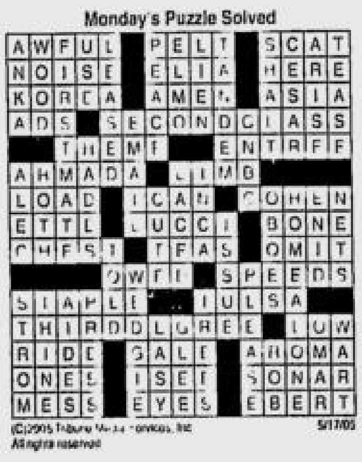
By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

5/17/05

ACROSS
1 Biblical shepherd
5 Page of music
10 Elec. units
14 Hailed vehicle
15 Festoon
16 Ring out
17 Moran or Gray
18 Futhark alphabet
19 Sole
20 Follow doggedly
23 Crow's-nest support
24 __ Aviv-Jaffa
25 More qualified
28 Unhappy
31 Comb projection
35 Attached shed
37 Pool equipment
39 Kind of horse or cow
40 Reassemble, maybe
44 Simple shelter
45 August sign
46 Get one's bearings
47 Analyze, as ore
50 Before, to a bard
52 Gather into a group
53 __ Angeles
55 Presidential turndown
57 Make a mess of things
63 As well
64 Rich or Castle
65 Feedbag contents
67 Observes
68 More modern
69 Beehive State
70 Irksome fellow
71 Transmits
72 Withered

DOWN
1 Put on the feedbag
2 Soap units
3 Way out
4 Medicinal balm
5 Recreation areas
6 Grownups
7 Novelist Morrison
8 Arduous journey
9 Map within a map
10 Son of Zeus
11 Diner handout
12 Visibly drained
13 Foxlike
21 __ blanche
22 Fetch
25 Start of a bet?
26 Swains
27 Goes on and on
29 Oscar recipient
30 Pair
32 Tessie or Milo
33 Young adults
34 Male red deer
36 Peanut product
38 Braggart's problem
41 Driver's peg
42 Muse of poets
43 Afraid of one's shadow
48 Not quite
49 Never __ mind
51 Made flush
54 Turns around
56 Washstand accessories
57 High spirits
58 Wields
59 Branching diagram
60 Chopped with an axe
61 Smith or Mulgrew
62 Headliner
63 Small Egyptian viper
66 Steady as __ goes!

Monday's Puzzle Solved



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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | W | F | U | L | | P | E | L | T | | S | C | A | T |
| N | O | I | S | E | | E | L | I | A | | H | E | R | E |
| K | O | R | E | A | | A | M | E | N | | A | S | I | A |
| A | D | S | | S | E | C | O | N | D | C | L | A | S | S |
| | | T | H | E | M | E | | | E | N | T | R | E | E |
| A | R | M | A | D | A | | L | I | M | B | | | | |
| L | O | A | D | | I | C | A | N | | C | O | H | E | N |
| E | T | T | E | | L | U | C | C | I | | B | O | N | E |
| C | H | E | S | T | | T | E | A | S | | O | M | I | T |
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| S | T | A | P | L | E | | | T | U | L | S | A | | |
| T | H | I | R | D | D | E | G | R | E | E | | L | O | W |
| R | I | D | E | | G | A | L | E | | A | R | O | M | A |
| O | N | E | S | | I | S | E | E | | S | O | N | A | R |
| M | E | S | S | | E | Y | E | S | | E | B | E | R | T |

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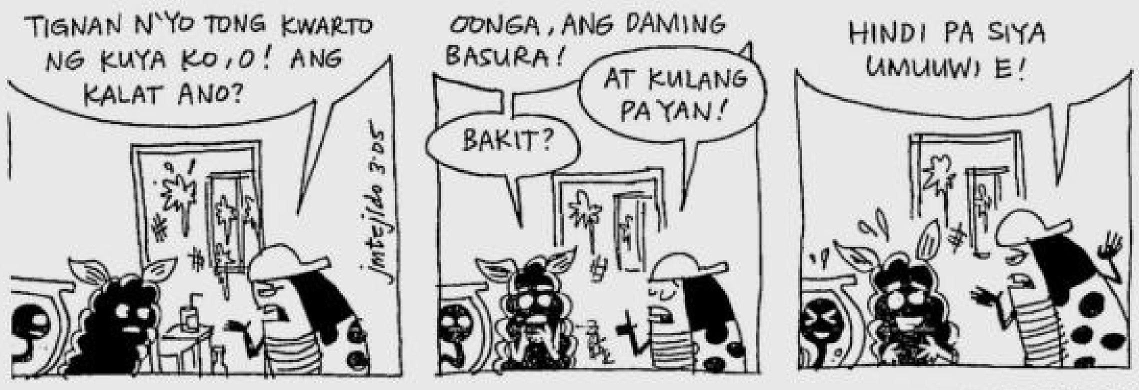
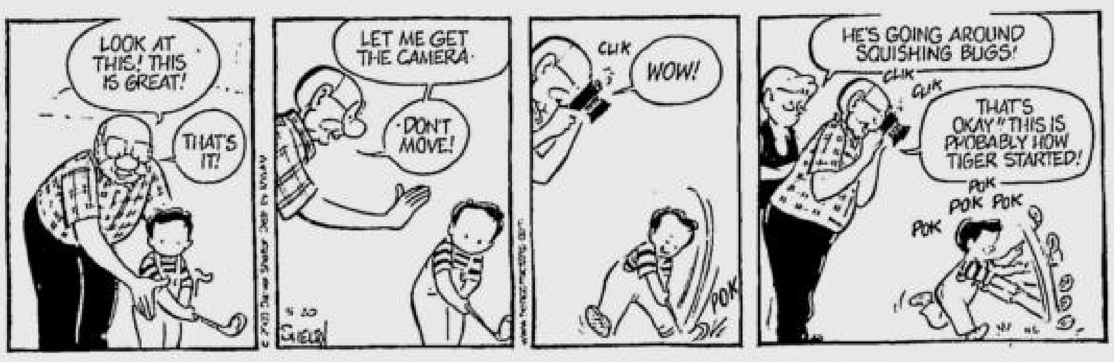
5/17/05

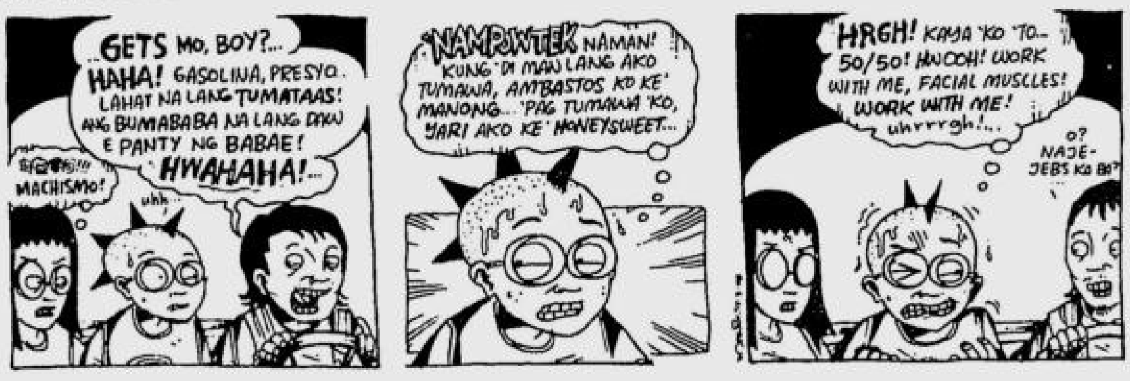
**MIKROKOSMOS** BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


TIGNAN N'YO TONG KWARTO NG KUYA KO, O! ANG KALAT ANO?
jmtejido 3.05
OONGA, ANG DAMING BASURA!
BAKIT?
AT KULANG PA YAN!
HINDI PA SIYA UMUUWI E!

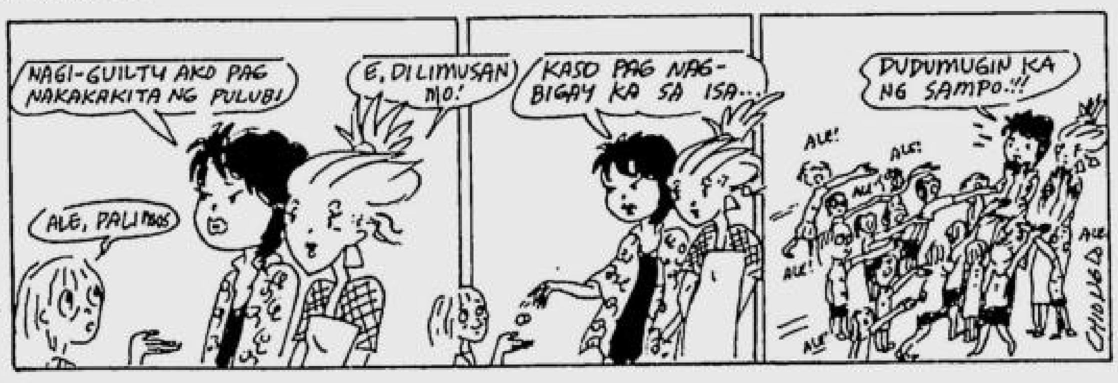
**BEN** BY DANIEL SHELTON


LOOK AT THIS! THIS IS GREAT!
THAT'S IT!
LET ME GET THE CAMERA.
DON'T MOVE!
CLIK
WOW!
POK
HE'S GOING AROUND SQUISHING BUGS!
CLIK
CLIK
THAT'S OKAY. THIS IS PROBABLY HOW TIGER STARTED!
POK
POK POK
POK

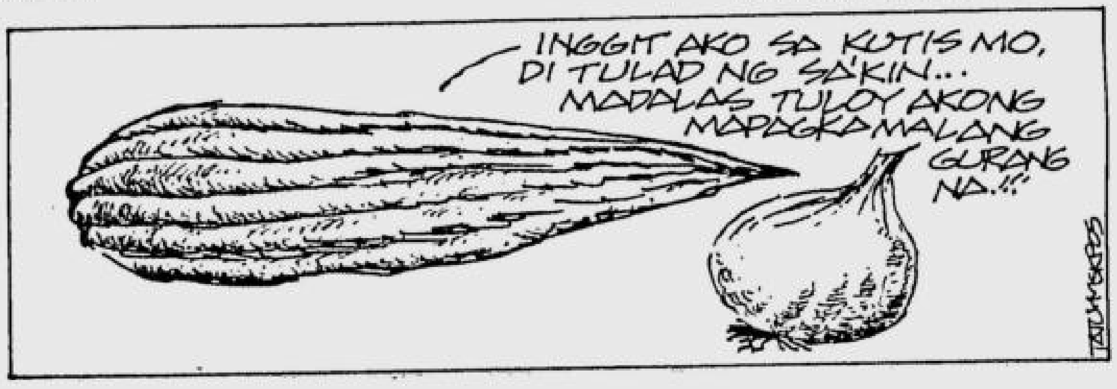
**KIKO MACHINE** BY MANIX ABRERA


GETS MO, BOY?... HAHA! GASOLINA, PRESYO. LAHAT NA LANG TUMATAAS! ANG BUMABABA NA LANG DAW E PANTY NG BABAE! HWAHAHA!...
MACHISMO!
uhh
NAMPOWTEK NAMAN! KUNG 'DI MAN LANG AKO TUMAWA, ANTBASTOS KO KE' MANONG... 'PAG TUMAWA 'KO, YARI AKO KE' HONEYSWEET...
HRGH! KAYA 'KO 'TO... 50/50! HNOOH! WORK WITH ME, FACIAL MUSCLES! WORK WITH ME! uhrrrgh!...
O? NAJEJEBS KA BA?

**LOVEKNOTS** BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NAGI-GUILTY AKO PAG NAKAKAKITA NG PULUBI
ALE, PALIMOS
E, DILIMUSAN MO!
KASO PAG NAG-BIGAY KA SA ISA...
DUDUMUGIN KA NG SAMPO.!!
ALE!
ALE!
ALE!
ALE!
ALE!
ALE!
CHIONGLO

**TULDOK** BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


INGGIT AKO SA KUTIS MO, DI TULAD NG SAKIN... MADALAS TULOY AKONG MAPAGKAMALANG GURANG NA.!!

# Archbishop favors contraception

**INNER AWARENESS**

*Jaime T. Licauco*

CONTRARY to what most Filipinos think, not all members of the Catholic clergy agree with the Vatican's stand against artificial birth control or contraception.

The Rev. Thomas Roberts, S.J., an American archbishop, who once worked with Amnesty International, has come out openly in favor of contraception under certain circumstances.

In his paper "Contraception and War," one of the chapters of the book Objections to Roman Catholicism published in 1966 just before Vatican II, Archbishop Roberts wrote:

"I repeat what I have said in various places over a period of years, that I have not been persuaded by the 'natural law' argument against contraception. It does not seem to me to be conclusive, and if I were not a Catholic, I would probably be compelled on the grounds of reason alone to accept the position taken by the Lambeth Conference, namely that there are cases where conscientious reflection on the matter by husband and wife might lead to the conclusion that contraception was the only way to save, preserve and sanctify a given marriage."

The Lambeth Conference that Rev. Roberts referred to declared that "on the grounds of reason alone one cannot affirm contraception to be always intrinsically evil." An intrinsic evil means that, by its very nature, it is evil. And this admits no exceptions.

## Alienated

The hardline stance of the Catholic Church on artificial birth control has alienated many of the faithful. In this country, the ultra-conservative position has made it extremely difficult for the government to pass legislation that would rein in the galloping population growth that has stifled our economy.

The problem is compounded by the reluctance of the local Catholic hierarchy to participate in a public debate on the issue. In fact it exhibits a pathological and puerile fear of being questioned by the people.

But as the Rev. Roberts pointed out, "It is necessary that the Church should offer convincing reasons for its position, for it is precisely the Church that insists on reason as the basis of its condemnation of contraception."

The Archbishop asserts the Catholic position is difficult to maintain, "precisely because it is based on natural law." He says the position, in effect, "assumes that natural law can only be clearly known by Catholicism, in which case it has very little to offer other Christians," and consequently makes "naturalness" highly suspect.

## Without question

In the Philippines, the government takes the Church stand on contraception almost without question for fear of political repercussions, despite the constitutional provision of separation of Church and state. And despite devastating consequences on population growth.

It is good therefore that a courageous and thinking Catholic archbishop should oppose the Church's untenable position on the subject. He has no votes to lose, nor any political constituency to please.

Archbishop Roberts also criticized the outmoded or antiquated teaching of the Catholic Church on human sexuality. He said, "The present Catholic view on sexuality is in an Augustinian stage, because it does not take into account the whole purpose of nature in giving man the power of sexual union. The whole purpose of human sexuality is not to produce as many children as possible, it is to produce as many children as can be brought up to lead a happy and fruitful life; and the whole purpose of marriage must be seen in this light."

Why can't the Catholic Church apply the same strictness and uncompromising stand on contraception to sexual abuses of women and children by some members of the clergy? Why is it so quick to condemn contraception as evil and yet too slow, even reluctant, to investigate and condemn priests' sexual abuses? Is it because contraception is considered to be "against natural law" but sexual abuse is not?

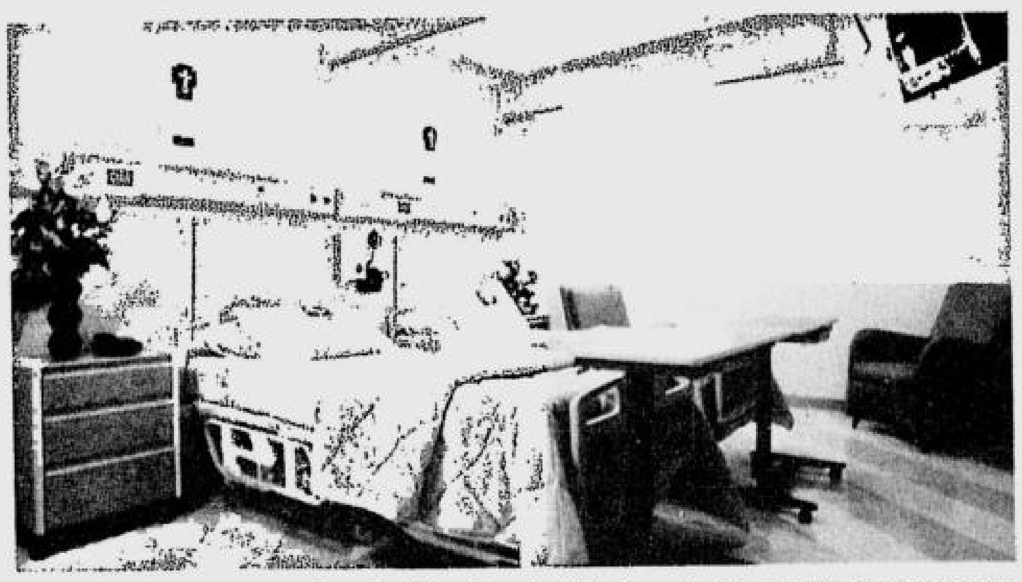
## Change

But nothing is static in this world. Even traditional Church doctrines have changed throughout the centuries. And, as pointed out by Archbishop Roberts, "just as contemporary theological opinion gives an entirely different meaning to the word 'church' from that which it had in the 16th century, so too it is not impossible that the classical concept of 'nature' will be revised in the future."

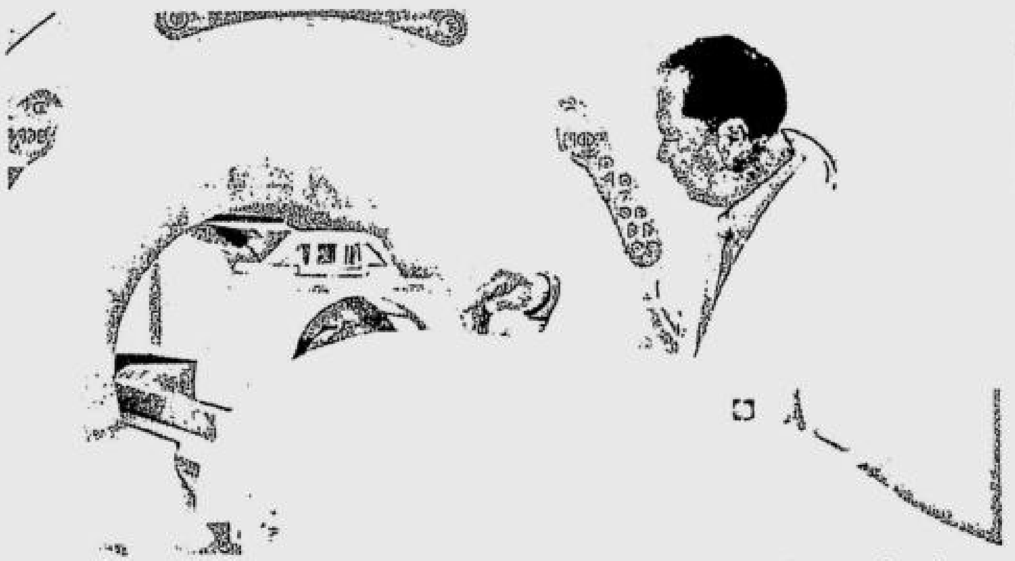
The book "Objections to Roman Catholicism" was written by eight Catholic writers whose devotion to their faith is beyond question. It has sold more copies than expected, according to its editor. And since the book was published in 1966, the name and work of Archbishop Roberts, S.J. has become widely known.

Hopefully the book will be updated or at least reprinted to encourage honest and intelligent discussion of contraception concerning Catholicism.

*Address letters to this column to Prince Plaza I, 106 Legazpi St., Legazpi Village, Makati City. Call 8107245 or 8926806. for information on seminars I conduct. E-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph or visit http:// www.jlicauco.shorturl.com. Listen to my dzMM radio program, 7-8 p.m., every Sunday.*



**FACILITIES** comparable to those in deluxe hotels will be important in drawing foreign clients.



**PARTNERSHIP** between AMCH and Bumrungrad will result in, among others, updated medical technology and equipment and excellent research facilities.

ASHAMED OF YOUR DARK UNDER-ARMS?

09177907525

# World-class medical care . . .

From page C1

airport, booked in a hotel and brought to the hospital. The hospital even helps facilitate the issuance of visa for some nationalities.

"We have expertise in building hub areas. For the first time, the Philippines has designed a facility that can appeal to foreign patients. We can eventually have the formula for some serious success here, and make the AMHC not only the No. 1 most popular hospital here but a new hub for the Asia-Pacific region," Schroeder says.

He says the AMHC already has the best doctors and nurses and superb focus on patient and service, the most essential elements Bumrungrad looks for in forging partnerships, and what make people—local and foreign—want to come back.

What's needed is correct marketing scheme and organizational restructure. The AMHC has to make the preparations needed to become the country's first fully automated hospital through a software called Hospital 2000.

## Automated

Fully automated means faster registration of patients, making their medical records electronic so their information is readily available to their doctors in one database, eliminating the need to search physically for test results—old and recent—in obscure department(s) of the hospital.

Even X-rays will become digital. This, says Schroeder, provides a better basis for world-class medicine.

While the method may be highly efficient and quick, Schroeder says there is no standard formula for success, no "cookbook" on how to run hospitals. Health care is still very much a local product, very specific for each country.

The new AMHC board of directors will have to look into what is appropriate for the Philippines and Filipinos.

"We have done this many, many times over the last 20 years. What we bring are the right elements to put it all together," he says.

Bumrungrad has what Schroeder refers to as the Dream Team of international health care management, each bringing 20 to 30 years of experience in running hospitals in Europe, Asia, Australia, Singapore, Thailand, the United States, Canada and New Zealand.

Dennis Brown, group chief operating officer of BI, will head the management committee of AHMC for three months to help get things started. This is the first time an international management company has been actively involved in a hospital in the country.

"The most important person in the hospital is the patient. They are our priority. But in order to provide best quality care a hospital should be financially viable. A hospital has to be run like a business, with compassion. The people from Bumrungrad Int'l. are experts in striking that delicate balance," says the AHMC founding chair Dr. Jorge Garcia.

Garcia, a world-class, well-respected cardiovascular surgeon with an impressive list of patients, has practiced medicine in Washington, DC for the last 30 years, occasionally coming back to the Philippines. From his experience, he says, Filipinos still have the most genuine concern for the welfare of their patients.

"You don't have to go to the western world to get medical care. We can do it right here. The person being treated in the AMHC gets much better medical care than patients in the US-and that is a fact," Garcia says.

*E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph*

**DENNIS** Brown, BI Group COO; Curtis Schroeder, BI Group CEO; Vicente Ayllon, AHI chair; and Dr. Jorge Garcia, AHI founding chair

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Take Charge Doc!

*What is the mechanism by which AIDS lowers the body's immune system? (Part 2 of 2)*

CD4+ T lymphocytes have a very important role in defending our body against the development and spread of disease. These cells are the primary cellular receptor for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), meaning it is the cell being attacked, used and consumed by HIV as it invades our body and multiply. The exposure to the virus also has a disruptive effect on the natural and ordered removal of these T-lymphocytes and on other defensive substances that our body produces. The destruction of these cells results to the suppression of the body's immune response. As the CD4 + T lymphocytes count decline below a certain level (a cell count of less than 200), the patient is classified to be suffering from Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and is at high risk of developing a variety of opportunistic diseases. In this condition, the patient becomes susceptible to attack of microorganisms that normally do not cause disease or death. It is not the HIV infection itself that kills a patient with AIDS, it is the opportunistic infections and diseases that may developed.

*This week's answer to our feature question on AIDS was given by our accredited doctor based in De La Salle University Medical Center (DLSUMC). **Dr. Loreta B. Zoleta.** Dr. Zoleta finished Medicine at De La Salle University in 1990. She took her residency for her specialization in Internal Medicine at DLSUMC followed by a fellowship training program in Infectious Diseases at UP-PGH. Currently, Dr. Zoleta is the Infectious Disease Consultant, the Head of Adult Immunization Unit and Chairman of the Infection Control Committee of DLSUMC. She is also affiliated with the Philippine College of Physicians and the Philippine Society for Microbiology and Infectious Disease. MEDICard members may visit Dr. Zoleta for consultations at Room 122, every Mondays and Tuesdays, 3 to 6 pm and on Wednesdays until Fridays, 9 am to 2 pm. She also holds clinic at Room 1101-every Wednesdays from 3 to 6 in the evening*

***MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.***

Nicky

# Minis can have max effects

From page C4

Southwest Missouri University research found that adults 18-43 reduced triglyceride levels 27 percent by performing multiple 10-minute sessions of "fast walking or jogging very slowly."

Thomas Altena, co-author of the study, said, "If we can get people to use short bouts of exercise to work up to at least 30 minutes of activity on most days, we can not only help them lower fat levels in their blood but also help them improve their overall health."

Last year, the American Heart Association cited a Harvard School of Public Health study, which found that two 15-minute sessions daily were as effective as a single 30-minute session in reducing the risk of heart disease.

Even 2 to 5-minute sessions can be effective if done often enough to accumulate 30 minutes. A 1999 study published in Preventive Health discovered that sedentary young women improved their cardiovascular health and body composition by doing multiple two-minute sessions of stair climbing daily.

## Little things count

If you can't record and keep track of how many minutes you exercise in a day, at least try to stand and walk more often than you sit.

A Mayo Clinic study used a technology originally developed by the United States Air Force for jet pilots. Lean and overweight participants were made to wear special underwear that recorded their movements every half-second continuously for 24 hours for ten days.

It was discovered that overweight people sat about 150 minutes more per day than lean people, so they were burning 350 fewer calories. Head researcher James Levine calculated that if overweight people would just move more, they could lose 35 pounds in a year.

He said, "A person can expend calories either by going to the gym, or through everyday activities. Our study shows that the calories that people burn in their everyday activities are far, far more important in obesity than we previously imagined."

*Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info*

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

# *Flat oblique curl on stability ball*

STRENGTHENS the abdominal muscles, particularly the oblique muscles that criss-cross the waist.

**Equipment:**

Stability ball

**Exercise technique:**

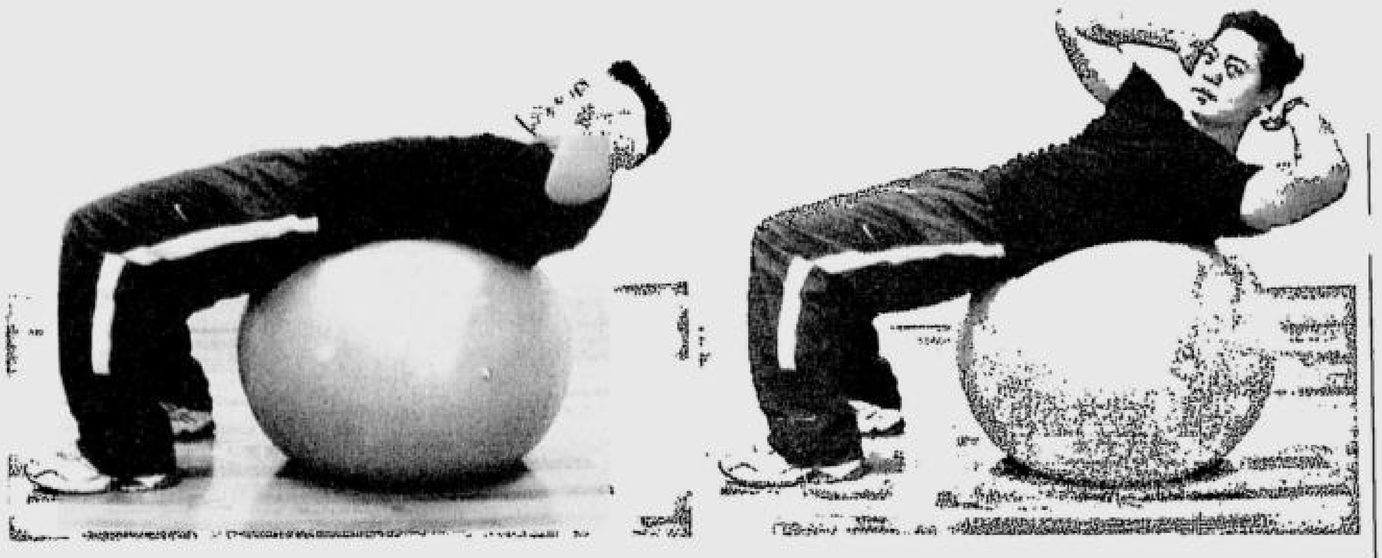
1. Start by sitting on the ball with your legs hip width apart.
2. Slowly lower yourself into a flat position by walking your feet forward while you simultaneously lean backwards.
3. Once the ball is behind your lower back, place your hands behind your head. This is the starting position.
4. Diagonally curl your upper body bringing the bottom of your ribcage towards the opposite hipbone.
5. Return to the starting position.
6. Do the desired number of repetitions on the same side, then do the other side.

**Performance tips:**

1. Exhale as you diagonally curl across; inhale as you uncurl.
2. Place your fingers lightly at the sides of your head instead of clasping your hands to avoid pulling on your neck.
3. Avoid bringing your elbow across your face. Focus on rotating at the waist.
4. If you find the flat position too difficult, try the incline diagonal curl.
5. An easier variation is to do the alternating oblique curl.

**Repetitions:**

12-15 repetitions.



# Minis can have max effects

CAN'T find the time to exercise? You are not alone. It is among the top reasons given by people who don't work out.

Though some are just using it as an excuse, with traffic and hectic work schedules, there really are people who want to get fit but don't have the time.

The current fitness recommendation is cardiovascular or aerobic exercise for 30-60 minutes at least three times a week, resistance training exercise for 20 minutes at least twice a week, and stretching exercises two to three times a week.

This can be "mission impossible" for someone with a nine-to-five job who has to battle the rush hour to and from work. Luckily, research has discovered that several short exercise sessions can be as beneficial as continuous exercise.

This week, I'll give scientific proof. Next week, practical guidelines for designing your own mini-workout program.

**WELL AND GOOD**

*Tina Juan*

## Research

In a Stanford University study, two groups did 30 minutes worth of exercise several times a week. The first group did 30 minutes continuously while the second did three 10-minute sessions morning, afternoon and evening. The results were the same for both—improved fitness levels.

Sedentary middle-aged individuals participated in a three-week study at the University of Virginia. They did 15 10-minute sessions per week (equivalent to two and a half hours of exercise per week) of walking, stretching and lightweight lifting.

They were able to improve aerobic fitness by 15-20 percent, increase strength and muscular endurance by 40-100 percent, lower cholesterol levels by 15 points, and lose an average of three pounds.

Head researcher Glenn Gaesser calls the short exercise sessions "sparks." He says even people who don't like to exercise respond positively to sporadic sparks because they don't feel like they are working out. The findings inspired him to write, "The Spark: The Revolutionary Three-Week Fitness Plan."

Gaesser writes, "The No. 1 reason that people cite for not exercising is lack of time. This research shows that you don't have to sweat and spend lots of time exercising to become significantly healthier. All aspects of fitness, muscular strength and flexibility can be addressed with short, doable bouts of exercise."

In a 2002 University of Ulster study, people who took regular short brisk walks reduced fat, lowered blood pressure, reduced their risk of heart disease and had less anxiety.

At the Cooper Institute for Aerobic Research, overweight sedentary individuals who increased their physical activity during their daily routine got the same results in terms of fitness, blood pressure and body fat as people who did 20-60 minutes of vigorous exercise several times a week in the gym.

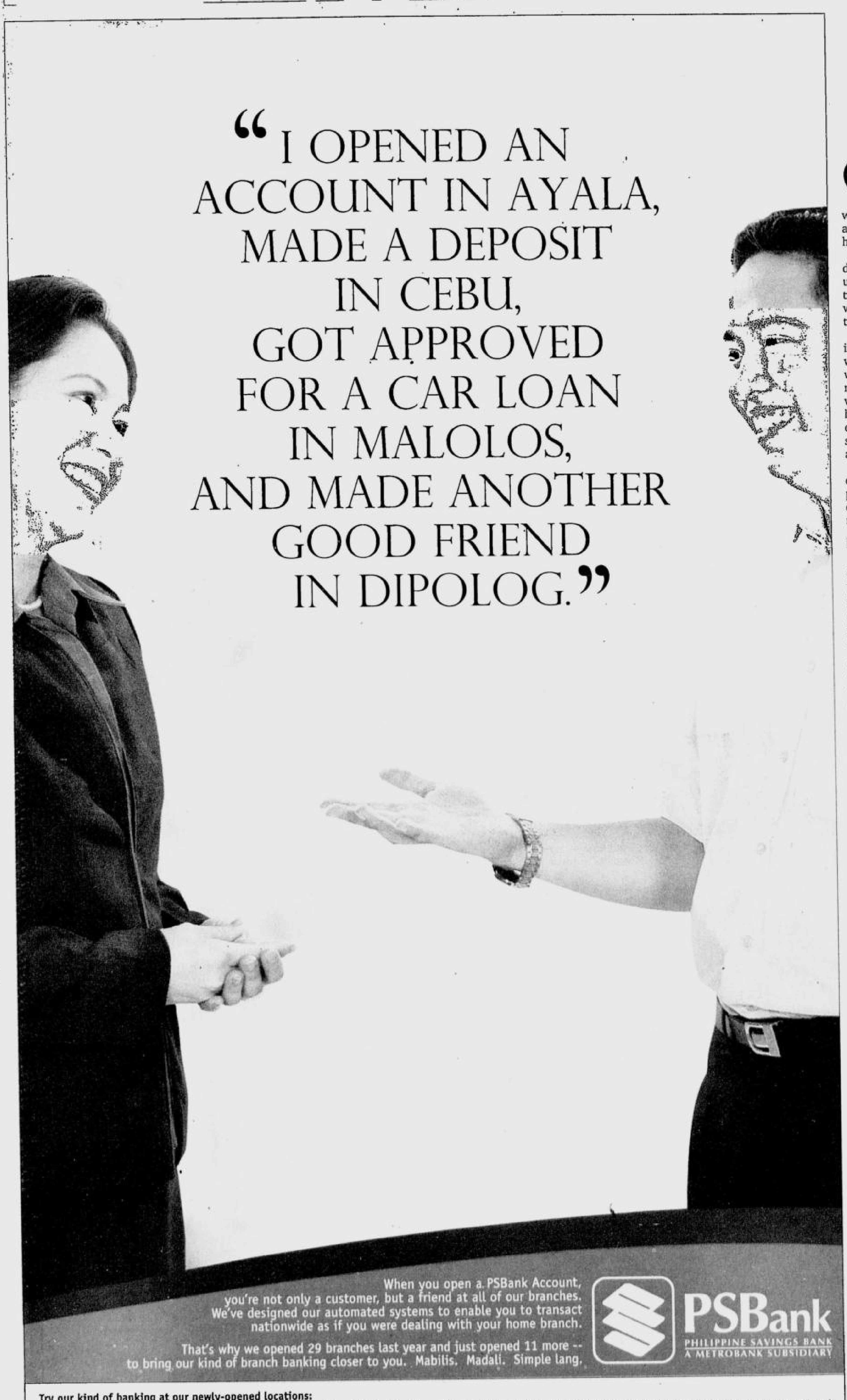
Researchers at the Johns Hopkins University found that individuals who did an extra 30 minutes of physical activity like taking the stairs instead of the elevator lost almost 10 pounds at the end of the 16-week study.

Scientists at the University of Pittsburgh put a group of clinically obese women (20-75 percent above normal weight) on three different exercise programs. All groups exercised for 40-minutes daily.

The first group did a continuous session. The other two did four 10-minute sessions but one had access to exercise equipment like a treadmill in their homes. The most successful (adherence to the program and weight loss) was the group that did mini-workouts with the exercise equipment.

So if you have a treadmill or stationary bike at home that is gathering cobwebs, put it back into active duty without doing long exercise sessions.

MINIS/ C3



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# LIFESTYLE

**BORACAY** gets a big fish
/D2

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# Fight aging by chilling out

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Life isn't worth living
if you are
in a constant state
of anger and hurt

**INSIDE OUT**

*Cory Quirino*

"STRESS causes brain damage," says Richard Restak, M.D., a noted neuroscientist and brain authority of the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

## A switch within

There is a hidden switch within us all that can spell the difference between blowing up or chilling out.

The good news is it can easily be found—if you want to. Day to day, the human body is flooded with stress hormones—corticosteroids, adrenaline and cortisol.

Factors that can stimulate these hormones include long-term stress such as traffic, emotional pain, work frustration/dissatisfaction, financial worries and short-term chronic stress-exams, job interview, joining a competition, etc.

While some stress is good as it challenges us to overcome odds, persistent stress or long-term chronic stress isn't. Constant stress can affect the structure and functioning of brain cells, eventually wearing down the brain, hurting neuronal connections that can lead to forgetfulness.

Stress causes the individual to enter the fight or flight mode. Your response to stress will determine which of two options you will choose.

To find the switch that will keep you stress-resistant, try this technique:

| RESPONSE | DISEASE RESULT |
|---|---|
| mobilized energy | fatigue, muscle distraction, diabetes |
| increased cardiovascular activity | stress-induced hypertension |
| suppressed digestion | ulceration |
| suppressed growth | psychogenic dwarfism |
| suppressed reproduction | impotence, loss of libido, interruption of menstruation |
| suppression of immune system | increased risk of disease |
| sharpening of thought and perception | neuron damage or neuron death |

## Quiet time

1. As a gift to yourself, set aside some quiet time every day.
2. Choose a spot in your office or house (a favorite sofa or chair) as your quiet corner.
3. Sharpen your ears to nature's sounds. Program your mind to shift from the everyday noise or traffic sounds, cell phone ringing, computer/office equipment noise, office chatter. The sound of running water, bird calls, the wind as it rustles through leaves of trees can be soothing to the nerves. If you don't have access to nature, recall images from memory.
4. Imagine you are in a place of complete relaxation. Be your own architect—build from fantasy.
5. Close your eyes for five to seven minutes. Block out your worries, frustrations, deadlines, concerns.
6. Practice deliberate, slow and easy breathing. Sit back, spine straight. Inhale deeply but slowly. As you inhale, imagine that the air you are breathing is visible and it is a brilliant white light. As it enters your lungs, see it filling you up with goodness and healing. As you exhale, imagine that it has turned grey, for it has taken away all your hurts, pains, aches, fears—negative energies that must not be kept inside you.
7. Let go. Tell yourself that you are surrendering yourself to the goodness of life.
8. Affirm: "I surrender to life and all its goodness."

## Chiller treat

Ingredients: 4 c lemongrass water (from 4 lemon leaves boiled in water and allowed to cool)
4-5 tsp of honey
2 lemon slices
6 ice cubes

In a blender, mix lemongrass water with all other ingredients for one minute. Drink chilled but not ice cold throughout the day.

## Cucumber Cool

Ingredients: 1 cucumber (seeds removed)
2 tbsp milk (fresh is preferred)
6 mint leaves or one drop of mint aromatherapy oil
egg white (from one egg)

In a blender, mix all ingredients for 30 seconds. Apply on a clean face. Place 2 cucumber slices on your eyes. Lie down, listen to relaxing music. Relax.

Life isn't worth living if you are in a constant state of anger and hurt. So love yourself enough to declare your days, beginning now, as your chill-out day.

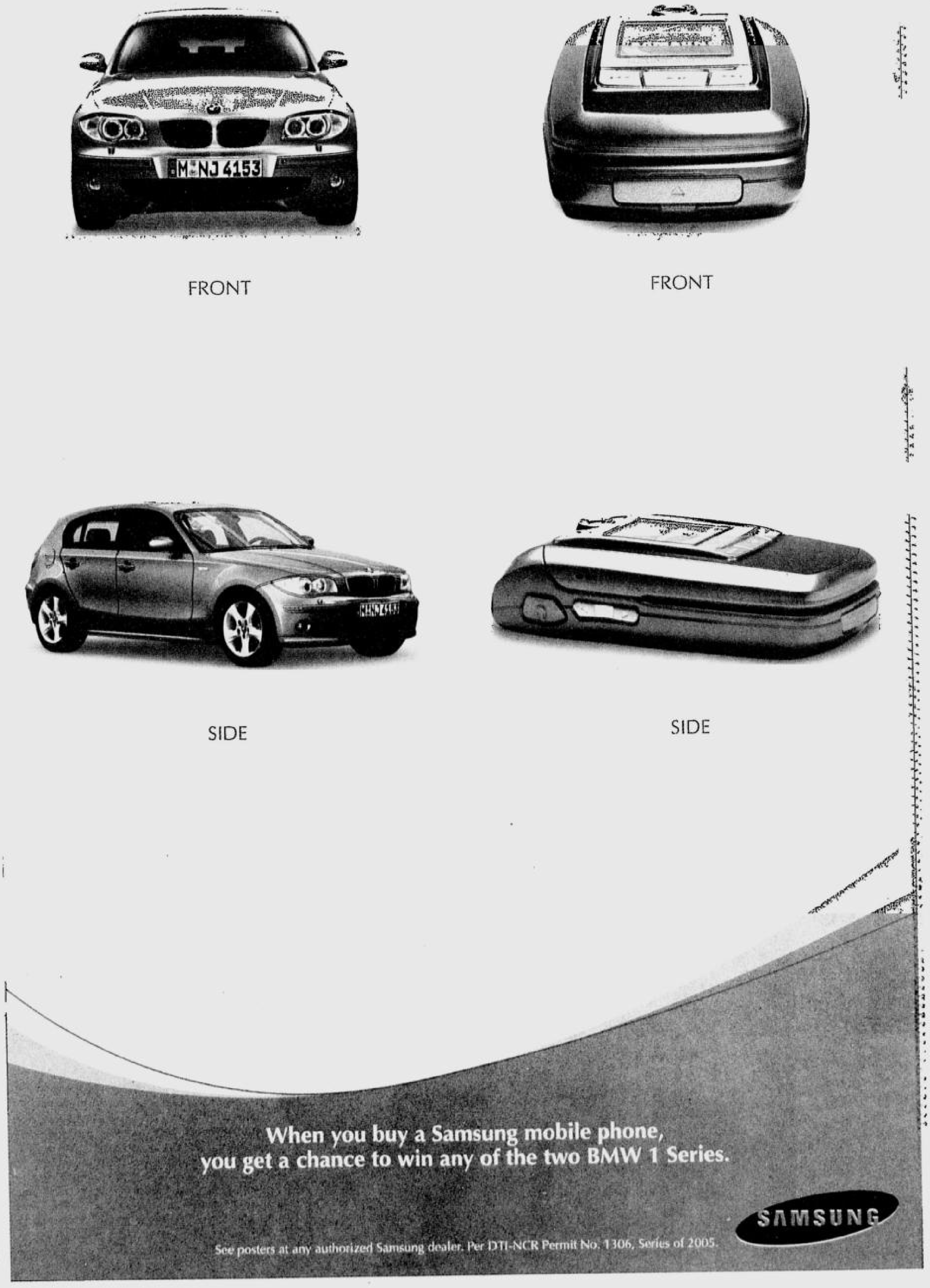
Love and light!

*Reference: "Your Miracle Brain" by Jean Carper*

*"Ageless Body Timeless Mind" by Deepak Chopra, M.D.*

*Other recipes found in "Forever Young" available at National Book Store*

*Listen to dzMM, 630 megahertz Radyo Patrol, 6 p.m., Sunday, "Ma Beauty Po Naman"*



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**TEAM BIGFISH.** Dominic and Joanne Primero with Pixie Cheah

**BEAUTIFUL TWOSOME.** Hong Kong-based David Jacob with gorgeous Bianca Zobel

**MODELS** Brent Javier and Nicole Hernandez

**CID WHITE** with his southern belle, Hanna Yulo

**JOEY** Reyes and Alicia Mayer

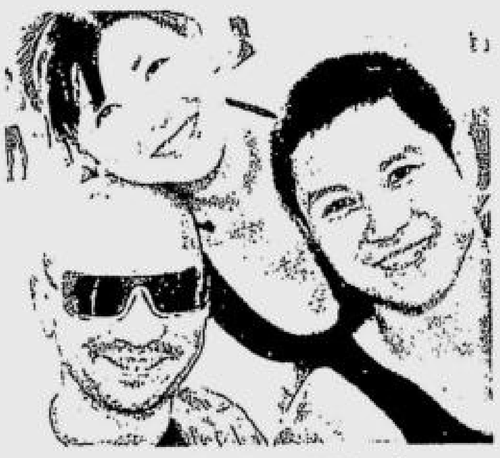
**COOL.** Maui Taylor and Katya Santos

**NICOLE** de Castro and Gabbie dela Rama

# Fishy expedition in Boracay

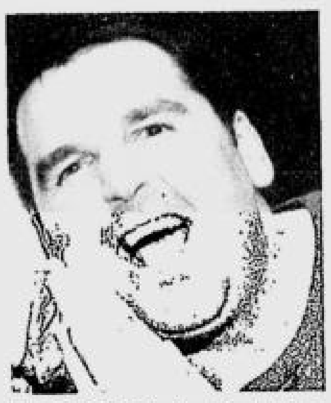
**ADDICTED TO SMART!** Borgy Manotoc with his gal Ornusa Cadness, Tim Yap and Darra Cadness

**THOMAS** Elsperseman and his gal forever, Elaine Matawaran


**MARTIN** Ledesma with top DJ Manolet Dario and vivacious Giselle Sityar

**RONALD** Pasion with Astrud Crisologo, Kiko Escora and Norman Crisologo

**JUDE** Lee, main man of Hey Jude, the hottest bar to see and be seen in


**DJ GRAND** Master Scott Mac

**COOL** dude Drew Arellano

## WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

*Maurice Arcache*

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

BORACAY is hot-hot-hot, *palanggas*.

For the first time in the history of the country's party scene, hot team Bigfish led by super cool, beautiful party couple, **Dominic Primero** and his wife, attractive beauty queen **Joanne Quintas**; and partner, vivacious **Pixie Cheah** (who is smiling again), with the full support of Smart Communications, threw three awesome, well-attended bashes on two consecutive weekends.

First was the Real Boracay Sunset Sessions with live performances by world-renowned Danish/Swedish chill-out group, Flipside! So there we were, sprawled on beach mattresses and throw pillows in front of the renowned Pearl of Pacific Resort, enjoying the down-tempo tunes while watching the famous Boracay sunset.

Several beautiful people jetted in from abroad like soon-to-wed lovebirds, muscle man **Thomas Elsperseman** and Miss Bikini winner, sultry beauty **Elaine Matawaran** from Prague; DJ/CEO **David Jacob** from Hong Kong with gorgeous **Bianca Zobel**; ex-pro basketball player **Cid White** from California, with Ilongga beauty, Bacolod's super headturner, **Hanna Yulo**; stylish artists **Ronald Passion, Kiko Escora, Norman** and **Astrud Crisologo**, with fun-fun **Jun-Jun Poblador**.

Two days later, it was Slinky Year 4!, *palanggas*, at the beachfront of the hottest place to see and be seen in, Hey Jude!, natch. Dance music was provided by euro-trance grand masters **Solarstone** and **Scott Mac,!** with our very own DJ **Erwin Edralin**. Slinky, the most attended and always the last bash in Bora, has been rocking the island for four straight years now. Some 2000 of the country's party animals attended, a fine mix of locals and foreigners.

At the VIP area were Smart's main man, **Boy Martinez,** with **David Nugent,** *moi* and two beauties, **Anna Angara** and Addict Mobile endorser **Rossana Prieto**.

### Round the clock rockin'

Rock and rolling on the beach were my supah pal **Tim Yap,** *palangga*, **Brent Javier** and **Nicole Hernandez.** Dancing till 9 a.m. Sunday were Bigfish's super pals and die-hard followers: **Raj Moreno; Patrick Reyno; Borgy Manotoc,** with gorgeous sisters two, **Ornusa and Darra Cadness;** DJ **Manolet Dario; PJ Castro; Martin Ledesma; Ipe Cruz**; and adorable gals **Anna Martha Moreno** and vivacious **Giselle Sityar.**

Still on cloud nine were honeymooners **Jose** and **Tin Moreno.** Also there were *guapo* Southern gent **Quad de la Paz** and his lady love, eye-catching **Tanya Moreno**; the Evaristo army, **Carlo** and **Lorraine**; award-winning film director **Joey Reyes**; and *moi*, with everyone's favorite interior designer, **Anton Mendoza.**

One week after Slinky was Hed Kandi, again at the beachfront of Hey Jude, featuring DJ **Andy Norman** of Team Kandi, with our top local spin doctors, **Wendell Garcia** and **Erwin Edralin, for Team Bigfish.**

This time around, the crowd was more of the "been there, seen it and done that" variety though they did not mind partying again. Some guests had skipped the first week, others did not leave at all, and many came back just for the party. So there they were, fixtures in our party scene, dancing to the smooth, sexy and soulful Hed Kandi sounds—handsome Aria owner **Jun Elizalde** , with gorgeous girlfriend **Bianca Araneta;** "it" fun gals, fashion plate **Celine Lopez** and INQUIRER's Just Shop **Jenni Epperson;** Mandala's **Frieda Dario;** and delicious-looking model **Ciara Sevilla.**

The super happy Hey Jude! owner, well-liked **Jude Lee,** was here, there and everywhere, rapping with never-say-die boys **Derrick Chionbiang, Paolo Prieto, Marcel Crespo, JP Bautista, Ash Mirpuri, Nikki Romero** and **Judge Primero,** with Bigfish and my favorite babes, gorgeous **Faith Amigo, Candice Gil, Jessica Guevarra** and **Hilary Favila.**

What makes Bigfish parties world-class? According to the gang of three mega fishes, Dominic, Joanne and Pixie, "it's because of our undying passion for dance music, love of family and friends, loyalty to sponsors, proper setup, and the right sound system."

Yes, *palanggas*, way to go.

### Rudeness checklist

While on a beach in Guimaras, my friend and I talked about how many rude persons there are around. During the animated discourse, we came up with the no-nos of good breeding. Check this out:

Rudest questions:

1. How old are you? Now that is really rude, *palanggas*. Never ask that unless you are a hospital receptionist.

2. Did you have a nose job? It's not only rude, it's embarrassing to the person asked.

3. You gained weight? You have to be real close to the person or a doctor, *di bala*?

4. How much is your salary? What do you care? It's none of your business, unless you're with the BIR.

5. Who is going to the party? It is already an honor to be invited. Who cares who else is going?

6. Are you gay? That's the biggest turn-off for a straight person, darlings.

7. Are you sure you cooked this? That's downright insulting—you're embarrassing the host while eating his/her food.

8. How much did you pay for that dress? Why do you want to know? Are you going to buy it?

9. Some writers ask before going to a press conference, "Is there an envelope? Is there a loot?" Well thank goodness they are in the minority and they know who they are.

10. Asking a well-dressed young man, "Are you a D.I.?" A rich pal who was asked that almost clobbered the joker.

11. How come you still don't have children? You don't only make the person feel insecure, but depressed, too. This is a major no-no!

12. Who farted? Ooops...You probably did it, but wanted to throw suspicion on someone else.

There you have it. Are you guilty of these "crimes" or know somebody who is? Well, *palanggas*, I know many who make the list.

**SOUTHERN** gent Quad dela Paz with honeymooners Jose and Tin Moreno, fun PJ Castro and eye-catching Tanya Moreno'

**POPULAR DJs.** Wendell Garcia, Andy Norman and Erwin Edralin

**CHILLING. JM** Rodriguez with Judge Primero and polo player Osang Yulo

**THE FAB Flipside**

# Fight the Big C with green tea

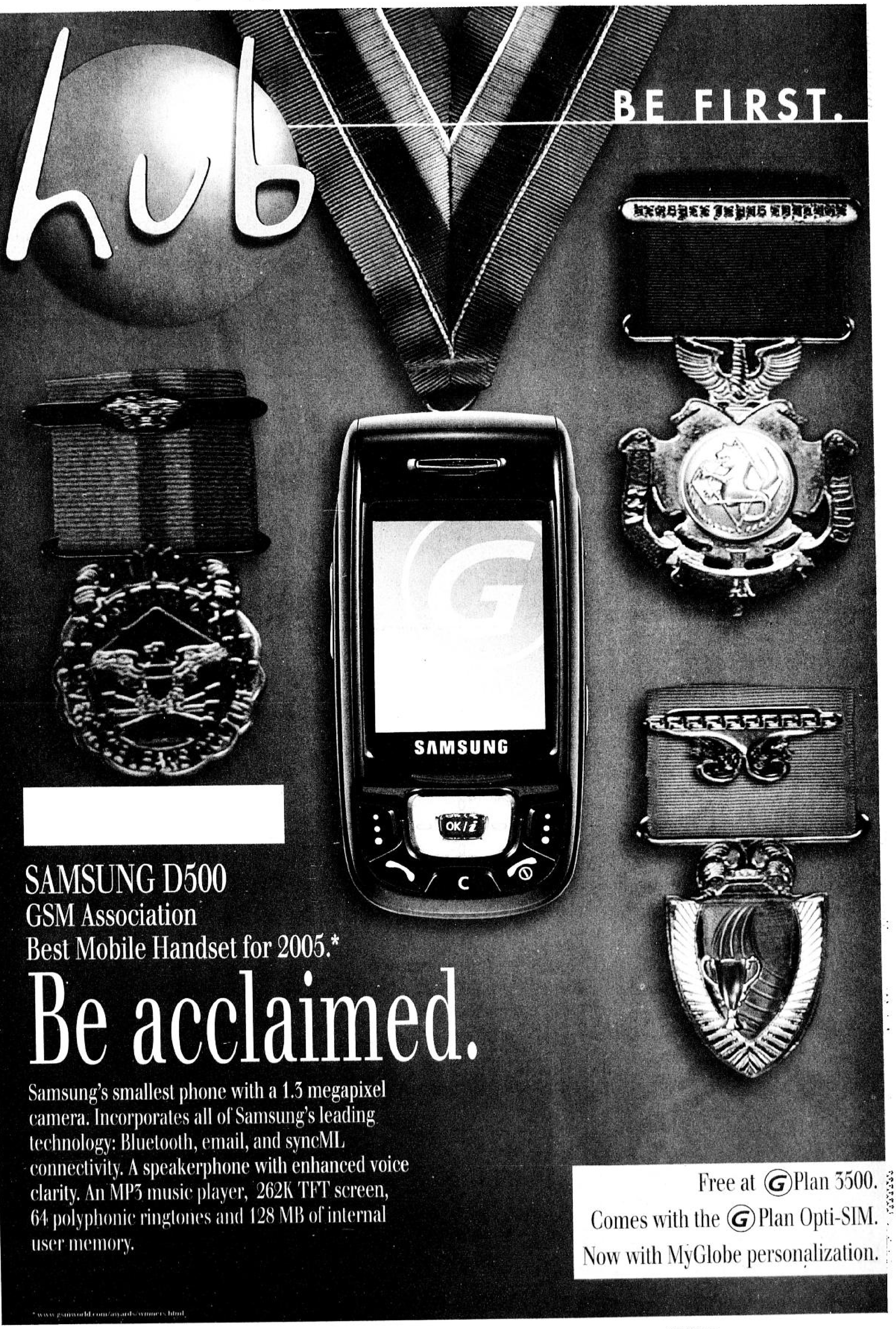
GREEN tea drinkers have a new reason to celebrate every time they take a sip of their favorite elixir. A case-controlled study conducted by the National Cancer Institute Researchers and Shanghai Cancer Institute found that Chinese men and women who drink green tea have a reduced risk of up to 60 percent of developing esophageal cancer.

Researchers used a cancer registry to identify 902 esophageal cancer patients from urban Shanghai, People's Republic of China. This esophageal cancer study is part of a larger, multi-site study that included pancreatic, colon, and rectal cancers.

Scientists hypothesized that the four polyphenols (collectively called catechins) present in green tea are responsible for making the body immune to cancer-causing free radicals. Catechins are powerful antioxidants that fight viruses and slow aging. One powerful antioxidant abundant in green tea is Epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG). This wonder chemical is at least 100 more times more effective than Vitamin C and 25 times more effective than Vitamin E at protecting cells and DNA from damage believed to be linked to cancer, heart disease and other serious illnesses.

This summer, fight cancer and beat the summer heat with an ice cold Pokka Jasmine Green Tea. Blended with the fragrant jasmine flowers, Pokka Jasmine Green Tea is abundant with healing qualities of green tea with a taste that will quench thirst and soothe the soul.

Pokka Green Tea is exclusively distributed by Benby Enterprises and is available in leading supermarkets nationwide.



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